

AFSA K-12 Work Session Minutes, Prek-6 Cafeteria

April 22nd, 2025

4:05pm - 5:08pm

Board Members Present: Sam Wakefield, Kate Plaisance, Kerry Schulte, Leslie Scherer, Laura Wyatt, Melissa Farler, Scott Stene, Julie Cox, David Smith, Jenny Cook

Board Members Absent:

Guests: Becky Meyer, Liz Burkwald, Laura Nelson, Teresa Kothbauer, Addie from Osprey Wilds, Meghan O'Shea

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Board Evaluation:

The board discussed sections of the evaluation survey that had varying responses. Sections include: Leadership Structure, Composition of the Board, Executive and Finance Roles, Understanding AFSA's Charter, and Fundraising.

2. Board Training Assessment and Status for FY25:

- New Board Members will need to complete 3 other trainings by June 30th.
- Discrimination and Mandated Reporter training will need to be done.
- Current Board Members will fill in new Board Members on required trainings so they can expect it and to help them not feel as overwhelmed.
- OSW new Board Member live training to be held June 3rd.

B. ADJOURN

Adjourning time: 5:08pm

AFSA K-12 Board of Education Meeting Minutes, Prek-6 Cafeteria April 22nd, 2024 5:08 - 7:00pm

Board Members Present: Sam Wakefield, Kate Plaisance, Julie Cox, Kerry Schulte, Laura Wyatt, Melissa Farler, Leslie Scherer, Scott Stene, David Smith. Jenny Cook

Board Members Absent:

Guests: Becky Meyer, Liz Burkwald, Laura Nelson, Addie from Osprey Wilds, Teresa Kothbauer, Meghan O'Shea

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

- 1. Call to Order:** Kate Plaisance called the meeting to order at 5:09pm
 - a. Mission:** The Academy for Science and Agriculture (AFSA), a public charter school for grades K-12, engages learners in academically rigorous, student-centered, hands-on experiences and leadership opportunities within a science, environmental education, and agricultural context.
 - b. Vision:** AFSA will develop lifelong learners who are curious, care for others, have high skill levels in applied sciences, and will be prepared for a future in a diverse, global, and changing society.
 - c. Honoring Native Peoples:** We would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Dakota people, and pay our respect to elders both past and present.
- 2. Determination of Quorum:** A quorum of board members is present.
- 3. Determination of Conflict of interest on any agenda items:** No conflicts of interest were noted.

Approve agenda: Laura Wyatt moved to approve the agenda, Kerry Schulte seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: David Smith moved to approve the minutes from the March Board Meeting, Julie Cox seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Financial Report: Becky Meyer presented the Financial Report; including the payment of invoices and the acceptance of gifts. David Smith moved to accept the Financial Report, Leslie Scherer seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. SCHOOL GUEST SPEAKERS

None.

C. GUEST COMMENTS

None.

D. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. School Activities Reports:

Liz Burkwald presented the activity report for the Prek - 6 building. Math and Reading MCAs are underway, 5th graders will be taking the Science MCA as well. Conferences are coming up this week on April 24th and 25th. Field trips this month have been taken to Wargo Nature Center, Pioneer Park, Shoreview Park, YMCA Camp St. Croix, and Cardigan Ridge. Prek/Kindergarten open house went well, multiple tours were given. Aprils soar slip reward is a carnival. 11 students are on the waitlist for 5th, 6th, and Kindergarten waitlist. Working on hiring a Prek teacher and a 5th/6th grade teacher.

Enrollment: 142

Laura Nelson presented the Activity Report for the 7-12 building. MCAs are underway. 29 9th and 10th graders got to be a part of UMN's "Goldies Early Access" event. Sign up for J-Terms has started. Mr. Bode has introduced Sepak Takraw (kick volleyball) to his gym class. April 26th AFSA will be holding its prom at the 7-12 building. Eaglets volleyball for 4-6th graders is going well and a great opportunity for all students involved. Boys Baseball has started. The Community Summer Night event went well. A visit for 6th graders to come experience the highschool is in the works for mid May. 45 students placed at the Regional Science Fair, 49 students went to the State FFA Con and AFSA's Scrapbook placed 2nd. For Earth Day 68 trees were given out, xcel came to present. Annual Plant Sale coming up.

Enrollment: 264

Total Enrollment is 406.

2. Committee Reports:

Donations Committee: Julie Cox is sending a plan out to the Board, AFSA will be going all in on corporate partnerships on big events and creating new events. Crowd funding is also in discussion.

Finance Committee: Meeting with bond holder 4/23.

Training Updates: Links to trainings are in emails.

E. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Policy Updates:

- Direct Deposit (ACH)
- Policy 730 and 732

- Data Subjects Rights Access
 - Criminal Background check updated to include service and telehealth providers
 - Healthcare in School Policy
 - Emergency Policy
2. **Staff Benefits FY26:** Dental care and potential change to how much staff contribute towards their healthcare. Dental plans are Delta Dental, to stay with MetLife even though their rates went up, or Mutual of Omaha (recommended by Becky).
- How much will staff contribute towards their health insurance? Model 1: Raise by percentage. Model 2: Don't increase. Model 3: Go up \$10 for vantage plans and up \$20 on passport plans.

F. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Policy Updates:** Resend policy 730. Kerry Schulte motioned to approve, Julie Cox seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. Approve Updates to policies 517, 732, 722. Laura Wyatt motioned to approve, Julie Cox seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.
2. **Staff Benefits for FY26:** Dental moved from MetLife to Mutual of Omaha. Kerry Schulte motioned to approve, Leslie Scherer seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.
Health insurance provider stays the same, move to increase Vantage plans by \$10 and Passport Plans by \$20. Kerry Schulte motioned to approve, Laura Wyatt seconded, motion passed unanimously.

G. CLOSED SESSION

Kate Plaisance motioned to approve moving into a closed session, Laura Wyatt seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

At 7:00pm Jenny Cook moved to end the closed session. Kerry Schulte seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Board statement: The Board is pleased with Sam Wakefield's performance in the first 3 months as Executive Director. He has made good progress toward his goals and is building a strong foundation with teachers, students and the community that will help us grow.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting will be held May 20th, 2025 at 5pm.

I. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:05 pm Kerry Schulte moved to adjourn the Board Meeting. Leslie Scherer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.