

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

**March 18th, 2025**

**4:02pm - 5:09pm**

**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, Kate Bald, Laura Nelson, Teresa Kothbauer, Erin from Osprey Wilds, Meghan O'Shea

## **A. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Osprey Wilds Renewal Decision:**

Reminder that 'Osprey Wilds Goals' aren't set by Osprey Wilds, they are the contract goals that the school sets for themselves. Academic Progress evaluation, the goal to meet was 75%. The actual met amount was 57%. Environmental Education goals were met. Operations and Financial goals were not met. Due to goals unmet the options are a 3 year corrective action renewal or non-renewal. Extensions are a possibility if progress is made within the corrective action contract.

Before June 30th in order to contract with the 3 year corrective action plan the School will need to adopt the required policies and plans, post the board minutes and annual assessment to the school website, and the Board will need to complete all of their required assessments and trainings.

### **2. Strategic Plan Update:**

Sam explained that he plans to go through and update the strategic plan based upon our needs and goals by September in order to create a new plan for the future of AFSA.

## **B. ADJOURN**

**Adjourning time: 5:09pm**

# **AFSA K-12 Board of Education Meeting Minutes, Prek-6 Cafeteria March 18th, 2024**

**5:09 - 6:46pm**

**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, Kate Bald, Laura Nelson, Erin 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:** Julie Cox moved to approve the agenda, Kerry Schulte seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Jenny Cook moved to approve the minutes from the February Board Meeting, Kerry Schulte 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**

Teresa Kothbauer presented on Neurodiversity Celebration week. Approximately 15-20% of the US population is Neurodivergent. NCW's primary focus is to help create a society where neurological differences are accepted and celebrated like any other differences, and create a positive change to how neurodivergent individuals are seen and supported in our world.

## **D. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **1. School Activities Reports:**

Kate Bald presented the activity report for the Prek - 6 building. Students grade 3 through 6 finished up STARR testing for both Math and Reading, scores were sent home at the end of Tri 2. Science fair for Prek - 6 went well, younger grades did more projects as a whole group while older students did individual and partner projects. Field trips for March include Springbrook nature center, Willow River nature center, UMN Robotics lab, Wargo Nature Center, Como Zoo, and Pioneer Park. The soar slip reward for March will be a beach themed dance party held on the last day before Spring Break (3/21).

Enrollment: 147

Laura Nelson presented the Activity Report for the 7-12 building. Juniors took the ACT. Tri 3 has started. Students and staff are preparing for the MCAs. STARR testing was completed for both Math and Reading. MN Agriculture Night was held at the 7-12 building, it was an overall success. On March 7th staff had a work day and dug into the question of "Why AFSA?" to talk about our mission, why we are here, and how we benefit each other, our students, and the community. 62 students went to the State Science Fair. 13 students in the REACH group have created activities about Women in Ag. for Women's History Month. Community Summer Night to be held at the 7-12 building along with Pre-k/Kindergarten round up at the Prek-6 building on April 10th.

Enrollment: 258

Total Enrollment is 405.

### **2. Committee Reports:**

**Election Committee:** 2 parents have expressed interest in running for the board (Matt V. and Melody). 1 teacher has expressed interest (Kyra Warner). The idea was pitched to invite candidates to the next board meeting to get a feeling of what it's about.

**Donations Committee:** Team meeting next week to create a plan.

**Finance Committee:** Would like to have a longer meeting between post spring break and the next board meeting.

**Executive Committee:** Executive Director review to send out to select stakeholders of AFSA (Teachers, Paras, Parents, Board Members). Results of the review will be presented at a private/closed board meeting.

**Training Updates:** Last meeting 3 trainings required of the board were discussed, as of now those trainings have been sent out and are due by the April board meeting.

## **E. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. **Academic Review:** Kate Bald presented for the Prek-6 building. District testing growth rate for students is at 76% in Reading and 64% in Math. 38% of students are meeting or exceeding grade level expectations in math, students who aren't meeting grade level expectations are receiving interventions to help get them where they need to be. The biggest struggles that we are facing are Student Mobility, Attendance, and Computer tests (screen use is minimized in the classroom so students are used to using tools that function for paper tests).

Laura Nelson presented for the 7-12 building. Science fair mission goals were set at 72/100, the overall all score was 79/100. Students obtaining an honors diploma this year are higher than the percentage from last year. SAE Projects had a goal of 80% completion, 83% of projects are done.

Post Secondary Goals include, graduation rate goal, 50% of students will have college credits earned by the time they graduate, and that 70% of students will score as college and/or career ready.

2. **Environmental Education Review:** 15% of science fair projects will fulfill environmental education goals, all projects at the Elementary building tie to environmental ed. and projects meeting this goal at the highschool is 18%.

3. **Policy Updates:**

505 GPA Policy has been updated and reviewed.

## **F. ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Staff Salaries:** Kate Plaisance motioned to approve a 2% salary increase for all staff. Kerry Schulte motioned to approve, seconded by Laura Wyatt. 6/7 board members voted yes, the motion passed.

2. **School Calendar for FY26:** Jenny Cook motioned to approve the School Calendar for FY26, Leslie Scherer seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
3. **505 GPA Policy:** Julie Cox motioned to approve the 505 GPA Policy, Kerry Schulte seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **G. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Next Work Regular Board Meeting is April 22, 2025 at 5:00pm in the Elementary Cafeteria.

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Laura Wyatt motioned to adjourn the meeting, Kerry Schulte seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 6:46pm.