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Achievement House Cyber Charter School Board of Trustees

Public Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 20, 2018

The Executive Session commenced at 6:00 p.m. and continued until approximately 7:30 p.m.

- I.** Pledge of Allegiance
- II.** Roll Call
Mrs. Marilou Strangarity (President)
Mr. Jim Bowers (Vice President)
Mr. Don Fraatz (Secretary)
Dr. Bob Maranto
- III.** Notification of Recording
A. Marilou Strangarity announced that the Public Session would be recorded on an audio device.
- IV.** Executive Session Statement
A. M. Strangarity announced that the Executive Session was held to discuss finance, personnel, legal and property matters.
- V.** Approval of Minutes from 1/19/2018 Board Meeting
A. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/19/2018 board meeting.
 - 1.** Motion to approve the minutes from the 3/19/2018 board meeting by Don Fraatz Seconded by Jim Bowers. Unanimous.
- VI.** Discussion of Academic Video Report
A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Academic Video Report.
B. Neal Thomas briefly reviewed the weather project that the AHIT Team has been working on. He also reminded the board that the PSSA test window is coming up and added that some AHCCS staff members recently attended PETE & C and others will be attending an upcoming PDE Conference in Hershey.
 - 1.** D. Fraatz asked if there is less testing time this year.
 - a.** N. Thomas stated that there is 1 less math section in the PSSA test. Don Asplen added that the PSSA testing window will move to a later point in the year next year.
 - 2.** M. Strangarity asked who is responsible for coordinating the PSSA testing locations.
 - a.** D. Asplen stated that Julia DeBald is fulfilling that role this year.
 - 3.** Bob Maranto asked when the PSSA window starts this year.
 - a.** D. Asplen replied April 14th.
- VII.** Discussion of SPED Video Report
A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the SPED Video Report.

B. Lisa Russo stated that a new SPED teacher is coming on board in March, which will move caseload numbers down to 25 per case manager. She believes that will allow case managers to have more time to progress monitor, collaborate with general education teachers, and increase student achievement. She stated there are about 200 special education students, which is about 40% of the student body. She stated that the school is enrolling more and more life skills students.

- 1.** B. Maranto asked how many Special Education teachers there are.
 - a.** L. Russo replied that the new hire would bring the number up to 8.
- 2.** J. Bowers asked what category most of the special education students fall under.
 - a.** L. Russo replied that most students have either a specific learning disability, emotional disturbance, or other health impairments (OHI).
- 3.** B. Maranto asked if any of those groups have a higher success rate than others.
 - a.** L. Russo said that it's hard to tell, but in general, students with involved parents tend to do better than those without.
- 4.** B. Maranto asked if parent trainings are live or online.
 - a.** L. Russo stated that they are online – one in the afternoon and one in the evening, however only 2-3 parents attend each session.
- 5.** M. Strangarity said she'd like to see the case loads under 25, so she asked that special education teachers continue to be sought.
 - a.** L. Russo said that they are constantly looking for candidates, but they are looking for people who are excellent – they don't want to settle.

VIII. Discussion Enrollment/Marketing Video Report

A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Enrollment/Marketing Video Report.

B. Alane Butler shared that enrollment is currently at 545. She also shared the Project of the Month – a solar oven in which students could cook s'mores. A. Butler and D. Asplen shared an online simulation (that uses Scratch) that Project of the Month students used to test and see how the solar oven works. A. Butler also teased next month's Project of the Month and stated that an 8th grader who is very gifted with technology, will test out the project first.

IX. Discussion of HR Video Report

A. Bob Worn asked if he could present the Personnel agenda items to supplement his video report.

B. Personnel

- 1.** New Hires:
 - a.** Christine Olewine, Social Studies teacher, \$47,000
 - b.** Amanda Martin, Special Education teacher, \$47,000
- 2.** Separations
 - a.** Sherri Markiw, Special Education teacher
 - b.** Amanda Gornic, Reading Specialist
 - c.** Kurt Brenner, Help Desk Technician
- 3.** M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the new hires at the salaries listed, as well as accept the separations.
 - a.** Motion to approve the new hires at the salaries listed, as well as accept the separations by J. Bowers. Seconded by D. Fraatz. Unanimous.

X. Discussion of Guidance Video Report

A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Guidance Video Report.

- B.** D. Asplen shared that there are 120 potential grades and 6 semester 1 graduates. He also shared that he challenged the graduation committee to come up with scholarships that could be awarded to graduates. He announced that Charter Choices has agreed to contribute \$2500 to the cause, a donation which will allow the school to launch the scholarship program. D. Asplen also added that he challenged the graduation committee to have all commencement speakers be former AHCCS grads.
- C.** M. Strangarity asked if there could be an Entrepreneur Scholarship sponsored by Schoolyard Ventures. This idea will be shared with the graduation committee.
- D.** N. Thomas stated that Jane Moneta has begun meeting with the senior Homeroom Coaches, mentor, and team captain to discuss student progress towards graduation. He also added that profiles of MAPs scores (benchmarks) were sent home to families in the hopes that they would see the importance of taking these tests.
- XI.** Finance/Business Report
- A.** Ryan Schumm provided the monthly Treasurer’s Report. He pointed out the new element on the Budget vs. Actual report – a YTD estimation of depreciation expense for capital assets. In the past, depreciation expense has been captured annually during the audit process. It will now be captured monthly based on the annual estimated depreciation expense.
- B.** R. Schumm added that the school received 40 district checks today, one of which was from the Philadelphia SD. He concluded that, from a cash flow perspective, he is not worried.
- C.** M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the written Treasurer’s Report.
- 1.** Motion to approve the written Treasurer’s Report by J. Bowers. Seconded by D. Fraatz. Unanimous.
- XII.** Discussion CEO Video Report
- A.** M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the CEO Video Report.
- B.** D. Asplen shared his experience at the PETE & C conference – overall he thought it was a very humbling experience, as they’re now talking about all the things we want to do in terms of STEM (STEAM, STREAM, etc.), technology, and computer science integration in education.
- XIII.** Governance
- A.** Updated PTO Policy
- 1.** D. Asplen stated that an updated PTO calendar would be presented at the next board meeting.
- XIV.** New Business
- A.** M. Strangarity asked if there was any new business.
- B.** Solicitor Review of Bylaws
- 1.** D. Asplen called for a motion to approve the Solicitor’s submission of a set of recommended changes to the current bylaws to be adopted or declined at a later date.
- a.** Motion to approve the Solicitor’s submission of a set of recommended changes to the current bylaws to be adopted or declined at a later date by J. Bowers. Seconded by D. Fraatz. Unanimous.
- XV.** Public Comment
- A.** M. Strangarity opened the floor to public comment.
- B.** B. Williamson discussed Minecraft for Education – he has been playing with a Chemistry piece of this, which is a new feature that he thinks students could really benefit from, though he pointed out that all students are currently operating Windows 7 machines.

1. D. Asplen added that the plan is to move students to Windows 10 this summer so that students can also have access to this. He is investigating new machines that Microsoft recently launched, which start at \$189 and are fully functional Windows 10 machines.

C. D. Asplen discuss Microsoft's new Translate feature which allows conversations in Skype to be translated on the fly to whatever language the listener requires. This could be a major development for things like parent/teacher conferences with Spanish-speaking families.

XVI. Adjournment

A. M. Strangarity called for a motion to adjourn the public board meeting.

1. Motion to adjourn the public board meeting by D. Fraatz. Seconded by J. Bowers. Unanimous.