

A+ Children's Academy Community School

Board Minutes

Governing Board Meeting

September 14, 2020

The regular meeting of the Governing Board of the A+ Children's Academy Community School was held on Monday, September 14, 2020, electronically. The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Board President and Meeting Chairperson, Mrs. Sherry Kuehnle.

The following Board Members responded to the roll call and were in attendance:

Mrs. Sherry Kuehnle, Mrs. Ana Gantz, Mr. Duane Miller, Ms. Christina Pagan and Mr. John Storts

Also in Attendance:

Mrs. Cathy Blankenship, Superintendent, Mrs. Gwen Dunn, Assistant Treasurer, and Ms. Lori Wood, Ohio Department of Education Representative

I. Roll Call

Four members of the board responded to roll call with Mr. Miller joining once technical difficulties were resolved.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda of the board meeting was presented and reviewed by the board members. Mrs. Kuehnle requested the addition of the Finance Committee Report as Item IV. Mrs. Blankenship requested the addition of resolutions approving the blanket purchase orders for Arlene's Cuisine for \$94,562.50 and the City of Columbus for \$10,000 to the Consent Agenda as letters l. and m. Mr. Storts motioned to approve the agenda with the additions. Mrs. Gantz seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 4-0.

III. Approval of the Regular Minutes of the August 10, 2020, Governing Board Meeting

The minutes from the Monday, August 14, 2020, board meeting was presented and reviewed by the board members. Mrs. Gantz motioned to accept the minutes. Mr. Storts seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 4-0.

IV. Finance Committee Report

Mrs. Kuehnle reported the Finance Committee had met prior to this meeting, and Ms. Wood had earlier provided a format for the meeting. She stated that it was good to see Mr. Ashmore and appreciated his participation. Mrs. Kuehnle suggested that the board members, not just the Finance Committee members, all review the Treasurer's Report. The Finance Committee, she explained, was given an opportunity to ask questions and reviewed the new hire contract, teacher agreement, school psychologist services and repairs and maintenance expenditures. In additions, Mrs. Kuehnle noted that the students are not taking as many Arlene's Cuisine lunches as stated in the contract. Mrs. Blankenship, she reported, will be contacting Arlene's Cuisine

asking them to modify the contract while the school is operating remotely. She added that Mrs. Blankenship strongly recommended the approval of the contract of Brianna Bridgeman, the Teacher Mentor Agreement with Carmen Ostermann, a very competent former teacher who is coming back to provide this service, and the services of Carrie Best as the school psychologist who has worked with the superintendent before. The Finance Committee recommended that the items on the Consent Agenda be supported. Mr. Storts pointed out the maintenance were much higher and a lot more cleaning had been done.

Mrs. Gantz motioned to accept the Finance Committee recommendations and approve Items a., b., c., l., and m. of the Consent Agenda. Ms. Pagan seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 5-0.

V. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Miller motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, and Mrs. Gantz seconded the motion. Mrs. Gantz asked for clarification on what the board was approving. Ms. Wood explained that the approval of the Treasurer's Report as part of the agenda allowed the board to ask any questions during the meeting. With no further questions, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 5-0.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Current Enrollment

K- 9

1-26

2-21

3-19

4-14

5-16

Total- 105

Mrs. Blankenship reported that the total has now increased to 107 as the school enrolled two more students that day. She noted that kindergarten enrollment was extremely low while first grade enrollment was now at 28. She explained her intent to create a kindergarten-first grade class instead of just kindergarten as some of the first graders' skills are very low. Mrs. Blankenship added she planned to have conversations with the parents of first graders placed in this class so that they understand their students may not advance to second grade at the end of the year.

B. Suspensions or Expulsions – Mrs. Blankenship reported no suspensions or expulsions in August.

C. Speech-Language Pathologist Contract – Mrs. Blankenship pointed out that this contract had been part of the Finance Committee report.

D. Teacher Mentor agreement – Mrs. Blankenship stated how wonderful the former Art teacher is and how glad she is Carmen Ostermann is able to continue to work at the school in this capacity.

E. School Psychologist – Nothing further to report as discussed in Finance Committee Report.

- F. Verification of Residency Policy – Mrs. Blankenship reported that the school is ensuring the appropriate paperwork to verify residency is received when new students are enrolled. The administration, she explained, is also asking for new residency forms to be completed every year by all families. She added that the monthly reporting to the board has been expanded. Mrs. Blankenship stated that the administrators are noting how residency was verified and are requesting only those documents that will be accepted. She explained that she is reviewing the home districts of the students and will be verifying a specific number of students in each report monthly.
- G. Anti-Harassment and Bullying Policy – Mrs. Blankenship explained the policy was reviewed and additional language added to ensure it complied.
- H. Academic Prevention and Intervention Policy – The students have been taking assessments, Mrs. Blankenship reported, and will continue to be assessed in the fall, winter and spring using STAR assessments. She also noted that the teachers are using 90-minute reading blocks. Within the blocks, teachers are teaching phonics and working with small reading groups, reading aloud with questioning, writing and working on other language arts standards. Heggerty, she explained, is being used for phonics for kindergarten, first and third grades while Capit Learning is being used for the second grade. Mrs. Blankenship noted she was not able to use state testing data at this time because no tests were given at the end of last year due to COVID. She was not sure if and when the third graders would take the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee test. She stated that she would be having a data meeting where the teachers in grades Kindergarten through Third would be writing plans for the students who are off track and would continue taking assessments through the school year. Mrs. Blankenship presented data from the initial assessment taken by students. This data, she reported, identified 67% of the kindergarteners are off track, 80% of the first graders are off track, 94% of the second graders are off track, and 89% of the third graders are off track. Ms. Wood asked the superintendent if she had compared the STAR assessment to the state diagnostic tests to determine if Star assessments were more rigorous than the state diagnostics. Mrs. Blankenship responded that she believed the STAR assessments were fairly consistent with the state diagnostic tests. She also responded to Ms. Wood’s question as to how the assessments were administrated, explaining that they were done in person. Due to the conclusions drawn from the data, she pointed out, reading is the #1 goal for this school year.
- I. Policy and Procedures for Reporting Instances of COVID-19 – Mrs. Blankenship remarked that there was so much that could be put into this policy. The policy, she explained, states that the parents will be notified within 24 hours of notification of exposure and, if they are sick, the students should stay home. The handbook provides more detail, she further pointed out. She noted that three different letters have been prepared and will be sent depending on which is most appropriate as it relates to the exposure, if it is a teacher, a student or if someone has been around an individual who has tested positive. Ms. Wood asked who was the COVID-19 coordinator and stated that the name of the person should be reported on the school’s website. Mrs. Blankenship informed the board Ms. Wenger is the COVID-19 Coordinator.
- J. Parental Involvement and Participation Policy – Mrs. Blankenship explained that this is a policy that she was bringing back for review.

- K. Homeless Children and Youth Placement Policy – Mrs. Blankenship reported she was presenting the policy, which had been approved last year, with no changes. Ms. Wenger, she stated, was also the Homeless Children Liaison.
- L. Internet and Technology Acceptable Use Policy – Mrs. Blankenship explained the importance of this policy this year because the students are using Chromebooks.
- M. Student and Teacher Handbook – Mrs. Blankenship pointed out the most important sections of the handbook refer to COVID-19.
- N. STAR Testing – Previously discussed with the Academic Prevention and Intervention Policy.
- O. Remote Learning Plan – Mrs. Blankenship explained the first nine weeks of the school year would be remote. She further noted the teachers are using Google Classroom and uploading their lessons for the students. Teachers, she reported, are also recording short videos for the students to watch at a later time if they are at daycare, for example. Mrs. Blankenship reported that the students have work to complete every school day, and the MobyMax program was working well for this purpose. She also explained each teacher turns in lesson plans and enters what the average time a student needs to complete the work. The superintendent described the difficulty in taking attendance when students have to complete the work at night. But, it is more important, she added, that the students are doing what they are asked to do. She explained that if the student is able to do all of their work then that student is recorded as present. If the student partially completes the work, she reported, the parent is called to find out why. Fridays, Mrs. Blankenship stated, students are identified who need to be on attendance plans. She noted that attendance is being monitored, and the administration is following HB 410. In addition, she reported teachers, as part of the lesson plans, are noting how much time is spent talking with parents and students. Also, as part of reporting, she explained, they must be careful before reporting students absent that they might be attending an intervention lesson or the arts. The next week, the superintendent reported, the school will begin offering art classes (dance, music and art) face to face certain days of the week. Some of the students will be coming to school to work on reading or receive help in other subjects. The school, she explained, is offering tutoring throughout the week. She further reported three students do not have internet access. Tablets ordered during the summer for kindergartners and first graders have still not arrived so the school will be providing those students with old laptops until the tablets are delivered. These students, she explained, also are receiving paperwork. In October, she reported, the school will look at hybrid learning. Mr. Miller asked what hybrid would look like at the school. Mrs. Blankenship stated the students would attend school two days and work remotely three days a week. Mrs. Gantz asked if half the kids would attend two days and the second half the other two days. Mrs. Blankenship confirmed that half of the students would be on Schedule A and the other half on Schedule B. Mrs. Gantz also asked if the students had been selected for the reading grant. Mrs. Blankenship reported all of second graders would be included as well as several third graders.

VII. Consent Agenda

- A. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Speech-Language Pathologist contract for the 2020-2021 school year with Brianna Bridgeman being paid \$50 per hour for a

maximum of 10 hours per week unless prior approval is received from the Superintendent.

- B. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Teacher Mentor agreement with Carmen Ostermann for the amount of \$2,000 for the 2020-2021 school year paid in two installments, with \$1,000 being paid the second pay period in January and \$1,000 being paid the second pay period in April.
- C. Be it Resolved that the Board approves using Carrie Best, school psychologist, again for the 2020-2021 school year. It is \$600 for every evaluation and \$225 for outside reports.
- D. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Verification of Residency Policy.
- E. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Anti-Harassment and Bullying Policy.
- F. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Academic Prevention/Intervention Policy.
- G. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Policy and Procedures for Reporting Instances of COVID-19.
- H. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Parental Involvement and Participation Policy.
- I. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Homeless Children and Youth Placement Policy.
- J. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Internet and Technology Acceptable Use Policy.
- K. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Student and Teacher Handbook.
- l. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Arlene's Cuisine Blanket Purchase Order (#1465) for \$94,562.
- L. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the City of Columbus Blanket Purchase Order (#1466) for \$10,000.

Action by the Governing Board in "Adoption of the Consent Agenda" at this point of the agenda means all items above constitute the Consent Agenda and are adopted by one single motion unless a member of the Board or the Superintendent requests that such items be removed from the Consent Agenda and are voted upon separately or are tabled.

Mrs. Gantz motioned to approve Items d., e., f., g., h., i., j. and k. of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Ms. Pagan asked that the student handbook be approved conditional on the correction of any typographical or grammatical errors. With no further discussion, the motion was amended, voted by roll call and carried 5-0.

VIII. ODE Representative Presentation

- A. Ms. Wood reported sending Mrs. Blankenship the attendance policy to track attendance by assignment.
- B. Ms. Wood informed the board that she had toured the buildings for safety and compliance and would tour again when the students returned to the campus.
- C. Ms. Wood stated that the Ohio Department of Education is encouraging boards to meet in person again. If teachers and students are in now in the buildings, the State is asking boards to consider also returning to the buildings to meet in person.

- D. Ms. Wood reported ODE had received a letter from the US Department of Education informing the state that it is mandated to provide state testing, and testing will not be waived. Mrs. Gantz asked when the state testing would take place. Ms. Wood stated that the initial assessments would be this fall, but the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee testing date has not been set, and no further information is available at this time.
- E. Ms. Wood informed the board this year's test scores would be on next year's report card.

IX. Next Board Meeting Monday, October 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Kuenhle asked the board members how everyone felt about meeting in person. Mrs. Gantz and Mrs. Kuenhle both stated they would prefer to meet in person. Mrs. Kuenhle asked Mrs. Blankenship to send a survey to the board members, and, unless someone strongly felt they did not want to meet in person, the next meeting would be in person.

X. Next Finance Committee Meeting Monday, October 12, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Kuenhle thanked Mr. Storts for being available early to attend the Finance Committee. Ms. Wood confirmed that the next Finance Committee meeting would be Monday, October 12, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

XI. Adjournment

Mrs. Gantz motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Pagan seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 5-0.

Adjournment at 6:27 p.m.