

# **A+ Children's Academy Community School**

## **Board Minutes**

### **Governing Board Special Meeting**

**June 25, 2020**

The special meeting of the Governing Board of the A+ Children's Academy Community School was held on Monday, June 25, 2020, electronically. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 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 and Mr. John Storts

**Also in Attendance:**

Mrs. Cathy Blankenship, Superintendent, and Mrs. Gwen Dunn, Assistant Treasurer

**Guests:** Christina Pagan

**I. Roll Call**

Four members of the board responded to roll call.

**II. Approval of Christina Pagan as a Member of the Governing Board**

Mr. Storts motioned to adopt the approval of Christina Pagan as a member of the governing board upon completion of her background checks and Mrs. Gantz seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 4-0.

Mrs. Kuehnle asked Mr. Storts if he knew of another person interested in becoming a board member. Mr. Storts answered he did and explained the interested person is a CPA but was not able to attend this meeting. Mrs. Kuehnle suggested she could submit her resume and a letter of interest, and the board would then be able to discuss her interest in joining the governing board.

**III. Special Board Meeting Agenda**

Mrs. Kuehnle asked that the board be flexible with the agenda for this special meeting so board training in August by the treasurer could be discussed before the finance committee forms and begins meeting.

**IV. Public Participation**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**V. Superintendent's Report**

A. MobileTek Services Contract – Mrs. Blankenship explained that the vendor proposed a two-year contract and a monthly amount increase. She reported that in the past MobileTek had charged separately for detangling and firewall services and in addition to the monthly

maintenance fees. The increase in monthly service fees for the new school year will include this additional service for the next two years.

- B. Blanket Purchase Order for MobileTek Services – Mrs. Blankenship presented the blanket purchase order for the 2020-2021 school year of \$11,823.
- C. New Hires – Mrs. Blankenship reported the school now has a complete staff to start the new school year. Ms. Riley Otto has accepted the position of Third Grade teacher and Mrs. Blankenship believes she will be a real asset. The superintendent noted that her salary was a bit higher than budgeted for this position, but Ms. Otto does have her reading endorsement. Ms. Kasey Madsen has accepted the Music teacher position, and Mrs. Blankenship explained that she is a newly graduated teacher and believes she will be a good fit. She also stated, when asked by Mrs. Dunn, that a contract still needed to be approved for the hourly speech specialist and that she does not intend to hire a second intervention specialist at this time.
- D. Lease Agreement for the 2020-2021 School Year - Mrs. Blankenship stated that the school's and Dr. Sams' attorneys did not discuss the terms of the lease agreement. However, Dr. Sams, she reported, agreed to the terms of the agreement as presented. She explained that the lease payments were based on the school's appraisal of the property, and Dr. Sams' Trust would receive a \$500 per month increase. In addition, she explained, the school's attorney revised the legal language in the agreement from the original lease prepared by Dr. Sams.
- E. Blanket Purchase Order for the Lease for the 2020-2021 School Year - Mrs. Blankenship presented the blanket purchase order for the 2020-2021 school year of \$102,000.
- F. Superintendent Contract for the 2020-2021 School Year - Mrs. Kuenhle presented the draft of the contract prepared by the school's attorney but explained that there would be revisions as some items did not apply to a community school superintendent yet assured the board that it added protection for both the school and the superintendent. Mrs. Kuenhle expressed that providing Mrs. Blankenship a salary increase was discussed, but Mrs. Blankenship insisted she did not want an increase for the new fiscal year. Mrs. Gantz pointed out she had the superintendent's job description, but Mrs. Kuenhle noted that the contract still needed to be finalized. She stated the contract would be for 260 days and would include paid holiday and vacation days. Mrs. Dunn did point out that in the past the school's sponsor has not recommended contracts be approved that extend beyond the length of the sponsorship contract. Therefore, Mrs. Kuehnle agreed and revised the length of the final contract be reduced from a three-year to a two-year contract.
- G. Fiscal Officer Bond for the 2020-2021 School Year – Mrs. Blankenship presented the fiscal officer's bond for \$25,000.
- H. Amended and Restated Ohio Community School Contract – Mrs. Blankenship pointed out that the board members had been provided a copy of the contract. Mrs. Blankenship explained that she had prepared the education plan which included creating reading, math, and writing goals. In addition, she noted the plan required science and social studies goals which were integrated into the primary reading and math goals. The plan also required, she stated, non-academic goals which are technology and behavior. She pointed out the school's use of STAR testing, how the school will use the test results, and parent engagement. Mrs. Blankenship reported that many of the additional attachments required, the school's by-laws and tax-exempt status letter, lease, and the list of board members, among others have already been submitted, and believes the contract is on target for completion by the June 30, 2020, deadline. The good news, she further noted, was the education plan prepared will be used for CCIP documents for the new school year. The contract and attachments, the superintendent stated, have been reviewed with Ms. Woods,

the school's Department of Education representative. Mrs. Kuenhle encouraged board members to share with Mrs. Blankenship anything they learn is working well for other students.

- I. Alternative Remote Learning Plan – Mrs. Blankenship reported Ms. Wood forwarded to her this plan for the board's approval. She pointed out that the board has the option to decide if they wish to approve it at this meeting. Because Governor Dewine has not yet directed the schools as to which plan schools will be required to follow for the new school year, the superintendent explained a remote learning plan is necessary should students be required to attend on-site learning part-time and the remainder of the week utilize distance learning or continue to utilize distance learning full-time. She added the plan presented allows the school to offer distance learning as did the approval of distance learning at the special board meeting in March. Mrs. Kuenhle asked if it was necessary for the board to adopt this plan at some point in the future. Mrs. Blankenship responded yes. Mrs. Gantz asked if the three options for learning were included in this plan. Mrs. Blankenship emphasized that the plan is for distance learning only and that a distance learning plan must be approved by July 31, 2020. She further noted that if the plan was not approved at this meeting an additional special meeting would need to be called prior to the deadline to approve a remote learning plan. She added she is still waiting for the Governor's direction on which plan schools will be directed to use for the new school year. She explained a template has been provided and will need to be completed at some point as to how school will implement the Governor directed plan to start the school year. The plan presented, she noted, refers only to remote learning if it is required and does not approve how the school will operate.

**VI. Consent Agenda**

- A. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the MobileTek contract for July 1, 2020 until June 30, 2022 school year in the amount of \$11,823 (\$985.25 per month).
- B. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Blanket Purchase Order for MobileTek in the amount of \$11,823 for the 2020-2021 school year.
- C. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the hiring of Riley Otto, 3rd grade teacher, for \$34,000 and the new hire stipend of \$2,500 paid as per the Governing Board approved new hire stipend resolution June 8, 2020, for the 2020-2021 school year.
- D. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the hiring of Kasey Madsen, music teacher for \$32,000 and the new hire stipend of \$2,500 paid as per the Governing Board approved new hire stipend resolution June 8, 2020, for the 2020-2021 school year.
- E. Be it Resolved that the Board approves Lease Agreement for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$102,000 (\$8,500 per month) between T. Ronald Sams Revocable Trust/Barbara A Sams Revocable Trust and A+ Children's Academy.
- F. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Blanket Purchase Order for the Lease for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$8,500 per month.
- G. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Superintendent's contract for the 2020-2022 school year for \$80,000.
- H. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Fiscal Officer Bond for \$25,000 for July 1, 2020-July 1, 2021.
- I. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the amended and restated Ohio Community School Contract for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022.
- J. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Alternative Remote Learning Plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

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 adopt the Consent Agenda with change in length of the superintendent’s contract from three to two years, and Mr. Miller seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 4-0.

**VII. Guidelines for Illness and Exposure to Illness**

Mrs. Gantz presented her research after reviewing the Center for Disease Control, Ohio Department of Education, and Ohio Department of Health’s guidelines. She reported both Ohio Departments referred to the CDC guidelines. She reported the six steps if a person tests positive for COVID-19, guidelines for persons who either thought or test positive with or without symptoms, and for persons who have been exposed to COVID-19. Mrs. Blankenship stated that this information would be added to the school’s safety plan. Mrs. Dunn also suggested the superintendent follow up with Parallel Employment Group who has provided substitutes as to how they plan to screen their employees if any are needed.

**VIII. Enrollment**

Mrs. Kuenhle questioned whether the administration had been using the same methods as previous years to attract students. Mrs. Blankenship answered yes. Mrs. Dunn asked if any kindergarten student had been referred from the private preschool on the property. Mrs. Blankenship reported that the preschool is again operating.

**IX. Superintendent Evaluation**

Mrs. Kuenhle explained that the school must have an evaluation plan for its superintendent and asked if any board members would be willing to work with her to prepare an evaluation. Mrs. Gantz asked if any other board members had experience with evaluating employees and then agreed to work with the board president on a plan.

**X. Finance Committee**

Mrs. Kuenhle asked Mr. Storts if he was still interested in being a member of the Finance Committee. He expressed his continued interest in participating.

**XI. Finance Training**

Mrs. Kuenhle stressed the board member’s need for training to better understand the school’s finances especially in the next fiscal year. She requested that the Treasurer provide a one-hour in-person training preferably in August. Mrs. Blankenship offered to contact the Treasurer for times and dates to arrange the training session.

**XII. Increased Costs in New School Year**

Mrs. Gantz informed the board she had attended an on-line Columbus school board meeting and the increased costs discussed. She noted the Columbus board members particular discussions about the cost of operating the school district with the new restrictions.

**XIII. New School Year Learning Options**

Mrs. Kuenhle stated that the three learning options for the new school year should be considered with the students in mind as it is the governing board's responsibility to do what is best for the school's students. Mrs. Blankenship pointed out that the teachers with children may have difficulty working out their teaching schedules if their own children are also learning remotely.

**XIV. New Board Member**

Mrs. Kuehnle expressed her appreciation to Ms. Pagan for agreeing to join the governing board.

**XV. Adjournment**

Mr. Storts motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Mrs. Gantz seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 4-0.

Adjournment at 6:33 p.m.