

A+ Children's Academy Community School

Board Minutes

Governing Board Meeting

August 9, 2021

The regular meeting of the Governing Board of the A+ Children's Academy Community School was held on Monday, August 9, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 5:31 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 (electronically), Mr. John Storts and Mr. Duane Miller

Also in Attendance:

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

I. Roll Call

Three members of the board responded to roll call.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda of the board meeting was presented and reviewed by the board members. Mrs. Kuehnle asked that the Executive Session be moved to follow the adoption of the Agenda and remove the formal resignation of Christina Pagan as a Governing Board member and the approval of Patty King as a Governing Board member pending both BCI/FBI checks. Mr. Storts motioned to approve the agenda, and Mr. Miller seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 3-0.

III. Executive Session

Mr. Miller made the motion for the board to enter executive session for the purposes of considering the contract of a public employee and for conferences with an attorney to discuss pending or imminent litigation, and Mr. Storts seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 3-0. The board members entered executive session at 5:34 p.m.

The board returned from executive session at 6:49 p.m. with no action taken.

I. ODE Representative Presentation

Ms. Wood requested to present her report to the board following executive session due to a conflict of scheduled meetings.

- A. She reported she had performed her opening assurances on-site visit and noted the problem with modular building but had no other major concerns. Her next on-site visit to review files, she informed the board, would be in September.
- B. Ms. Wood reported trainings, with exception of Mrs. Gantz's, had been completed. Ms. Wenger would contact, she added, any board members needing an updated BCI on record.

She noted a current Conflict of Interest form would need to be completed by all board members, and Mrs. Blankenship stated it was included in her Superintendent's report.

IV. Approval of the Regular Minutes of the June 21, 2021, Governing Board Meeting

The minutes from the Monday, June 21, 2021, board meeting were presented and reviewed by the board members. Mr. Miller motioned to accept the minutes, and Mr. Storts seconded the motion. Mrs. Kuehnle requested the addition of the words "because of the change of dates" to the sentence that the Finance Committee did not meet. With no further discussion, the motion to approve the minutes with the additional language was voted by roll call and carried -3-0.

V. Finance Committee Report

Mrs. Kuenhle informed the Board that the Finance Committee met prior to the meeting, and after finishing only one month of the new fiscal year, the treasurer reported no concerns. She pointed out that the state funding was currently based on 113.46 FTES, the number of FTEs reported at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Kuenhle also stated the Committee supported the resolutions to approve the engagement letters and blanket purchases orders in the Consent Agenda.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Dunn reported that the State Facilities Funding would increase in August to \$7,067.22 from \$2,237.27 in July as the new Ohio budget approved gave a 50% facilities funding increase to community schools. She added that the Columbus City Treasurer blanket purchase order amount was based on FY2021 water usage, and any unused balance of blanket purchase orders are canceled. Mrs. Dunn noted that both accounting firms preparing the financial statements and performing the audit for FY2021 have made their initial documentation requests, and the school has begun providing the information.

Mr. Miller motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, and Mr. Storts seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 3-0

VII. Public Comments/Participation

No members of the public were in attendance.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

A. 2021-2022 Enrollment

K- 12
1- 14
2- 23
3- 22
4- 14
5- 9
Total- 94

Mrs. Blankenship reported both second and third grades are full, and the school will not accept any additional requests for enrollment. She explained that the school may combine the fourth and fifth grade classes with the low fifth grade enrollment so that the fourth-grade teacher could be moved to second grade or until a second-grade teacher could be hired.

- B. No Suspensions or Expulsions – Mrs. Blankenship reported no suspensions or expulsions in June or July.
- C. Residency Verification – Mrs. Blankenship reported five students were selected for review.
- D. Third Grade Reading Scores – Mrs. Blankenship provided the 2020-2021 Spring Test Scores. She noted 5% of the students passed in the fall and 15% passed in the spring. She further pointed out the percentage of students in the Limited and Basic categories. Mrs. Kuenhle added that the scores were the reason the school was changing curriculum. The Superintendent reported no fourth-grade students passed the reading tests and noted the percentages that passed math and science.
- E. Ohio Immunization Summary – Mrs. Blankenship reported the policy manual had been updated with the most current summary released by the Ohio Department of Health.
- F. Conflict of Interest Forms – Mrs. Blankenship provided the board with a list of vendors and the conflict of interest forms asking each to review the list and complete the form.
- G. Parent/Student Handbook - Mrs. Blankenship reported the handbook only had a few changes from last year.
- H. Staff Handbook –Mrs. Blankenship reported it was the same as the previous school year’s handbook with only edits and revisions requested by Ms. Wood.
- I. Masks for the 2021-2022 School Year – Mrs. Blankenship explained that the Board must formulate and approve a policy. Mrs. Kuenhle asked for the Superintendent’s recommendation. Mrs. Blankenship stated the teachers would prefer that it be the choice of parents or students and further explained the difficulty in teaching students to read with masks worn. She expressed the concern that the school could lose students if they were required to wear masks or, if it is optional, the school could gain student if Columbus Public Schools are requiring masks. Mrs. Kuenhle added she was aware of four school districts requiring masks and others requiring masks be worn on the buses. Mr. Miller added he was less concerned for the children than the unvaccinated adults as the school’s students are not old enough to be vaccinated. Mrs. Blankenship stated that the school would continue to provide masks and additional cleaning and require distancing. Mr. Storts advocated masks should be the choice of the parent or student. Mr. Miller expressed he felt masks should not be required because the school could lose students. Mrs. Kuenhle stated a choice should be given to the individual unless masks are mandated in the schools.
- J. Stipends for the 2021-2022 School Year – Mrs. Dunn explained the new hire and retention stipends would be \$2,000 provided after four quarters rather than \$2,500 over five quarters as in previous years. In addition, she stated, and Mrs. Blankenship confirmed, the stipends provided to individual staff members would be paid from ESSER funds.
- K. New Hires –Mrs. Dunn reported the hiring of Nicole Ginunas Wilson as a Teacher’s Aide, Tiera Hood as a Teacher’s Aide and Sandra VanDyne as a Custodian.
- L. Contract for Brianna Bridgeman -Mrs. Dunn noted the hiring of Brianna Bridgeman as a full-time employee, and Mrs. Blankenship added half her salary would be paid by ESSER funds.
- M. Homeless Children and Youth Placement Policy – Mrs. Kuenhle asked the board members to review this and the remaining policies in the report while the Superintendent responded to a fire alarm (accidentally set off by a flooring installation contractor). No members had any questions for the Superintendent upon her return.
- N. Updated Homeless Affidavit Form
- O. Academic Intervention and Prevention Policy
- P. Parental Involvement Policy
- Q. Personnel Records File Policy

R. Review of Health and Safety Policies

1. Hand Washing
2. Personal Safety
3. Equipment Safety
4. Student Medical Emergencies
5. Communicable Diseases
6. Direct-Contact Communicable Diseases
7. Bodily Fluid Exposure Control
8. Head Lice
9. Compliance with Federal and State Safety Programs
10. Chemical Hazard Communication Program
11. Integrated Pest Management
12. OSHA Exposure Control Plan
13. Asbestos Hazards
14. Chemical Hygiene
15. Hazard Review and Inspection

IX. Consent Agenda

- A. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Parent/Student Handbook.
- B. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Staff Handbook.
- C. Be it Resolved that the Board approves offering a \$2,000 signing bonus to new A+ Children's Academy teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. The \$2,000 signing bonus, given at the discretion of the superintendent, will be paid in \$500 increments at the end of each quarter. The teacher will be required to pay back the entire bonus amount received if the teacher leaves or is terminated prior to the completion of the 2021-2022 contract.
- D. Be it Resolved that the Board approves to offer a bonus of \$2,000 for returning teachers at the discretion of the superintendent. \$500 will be paid at the end of each quarter. The teacher will be required to pay back the entire bonus amount received if the teacher leaves or is terminated prior to the completion of the 2021-2022 contract.
- E. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Technology Coordinator Stipend for Kellie Demmler for \$2,000 for the 2021-2022 school year to be paid in four installments of \$500 the first pay period following each quarter.
- F. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) Stipends for Krista Jenkinson and Jenny Mills for \$500 for the 2021-2022 school year to be paid in two installments of \$250 the first pay period following the second and third quarters.
- G. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Math Coordinator Stipend for Kristin Sherman for \$3,000 for the 2021-2022 school year to be paid in four installments of \$750 the first pay period following each quarter.
- H. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Reading Coordinator Stipends for Lacy Moore and Riley Otto for \$4,000 for the 2021-2022 school year to be paid in four installments of \$1,000 the first pay period following each quarter.
- I. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Teacher's Aide Lead Stipend for Keisha Nations for \$2,000 for the 2021-2022 school year to be paid in four installments of \$500 the first pay period following each quarter.
- J. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Social Emotional Learning Support Stipend for Lily Schumer for \$1,500 for the 2021-2022 school year to be paid in four installments of \$375 the first pay period following each quarter.



- K.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the hiring of Nicole Ginunas Wilson, Teacher's Aide, for \$14/hour. The first of 23 pays for the 2021-2022 school year will begin September 3, 2021.
- L.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the hiring of Tiera Hood, Teacher's Aide, for \$14/hour. The first of 23 pays for the 2021-2022 school year will be September 3, 2021.
- M.** Be it resolved that the Board approves the hiring of Sandra VanDyne, Custodian, for \$13/hour. The first of 23 pays for the 2021-2022 school year will begin September 3, 2021.
- N.** Be it resolved that the Board approves the contract for Brianna Bridgeman, Speech Language Pathologist/PBIS Coordinator, for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$48,000. The first of 23 pays for the 2021-2022 school year will begin September 3, 2021.
- O.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Academic Intervention and Prevention Policy for the 2021-2022 school year.
- P.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Updated Parental Involvement Policy.
- Q.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Personnel Records File Policy.
- R.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Hand Washing Policy.
- S.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Personal Safety Policy.
- T.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Equipment Safety Policy.
- U.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Student Medical Emergencies Policy.
- V.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Communicable Diseases Policy.
- W.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Bodily Fluid Exposure Control Policy.
- X.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Head Lice Policy.
- Y.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves Compliance with Federal and State Safety Programs.
- Z.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Chemical Hazard Communication Program.
- AA.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Integrated Pest Management Policy.
- BB.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the OSHA Exposure Control Plan.
- CC.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Asbestos Hazards Policy.
- DD.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Hazard Review and Inspection Policy.
- EE.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Philadelphia Insurance Purchase Order #1684 for \$7,347.00
- FF.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Millhuff-Stang CPA, Inc. Engagement Letter and the Purchase Order #1710 for \$3,250.00.
- GG.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Columbus City Treasurer Purchase Order #1711 for \$9,200.00
- HH.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the James G. Zupka C.P.A., Inc Engagement Letter and Purchase Order #1712 for \$8,576.00
- II.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Use of Masks Policy for 2021-2022 is the wearing of masks by students, parents, and staff is the individual choice, but strongly recommended.
- JJ.** Be it Resolved that the Board approves a retroactive 2% salary raise of \$1,600 for the Superintendent for 2021-2022 effective July 1, 2021.

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.

Mr. Miller motioned the acceptance of the Consent Agenda, and Mr. Storts seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion was voted by roll call, and carried 3-0.

X. **Next Board Meeting Monday, September 13, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.**

XI. **Adjournment**

Mr, Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Storts seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 3-0.

Adjournment at 7:35 p.m.

Sherry Kuehnle
9/13/21