

A+ Children's Academy Community School

Board Minutes

Governing Board Meeting

September 13, 2021

The regular meeting of the Governing Board of the A+ Children's Academy Community School was held on Monday, September 13, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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, and Mr. John Storts

Also in Attendance:

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

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. Mr. Storts motioned to approve the agenda with flexibility, and Mrs. Gantz seconded the motion. Mrs. Kuehnle explained her request for flexibility was to provide time to discuss with the guest her interest in joining the board at the end of the meeting. With no further discussion, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 3-0.

III. Approval of the Regular Minutes of the August 9, 2021, Governing Board Meeting

The minutes from the Monday, August 9, 2021, board meeting were presented and reviewed by the board members. Mr. Storts motioned to accept the minutes, and Mrs. Gantz seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion to approve the minutes was voted by roll call and carried -3-0.

IV. Public Comments/Participation

Mrs. Kuehnle asked Ms. King to introduce herself. She stated that she was in her 25th year in education as a high school math teacher. Ms. King expressed her curiosity in how charter schools operated and wished to become better informed. She especially wants to serve the students whose needs are not met in large schools. Mrs. Kuehnle thanked her for showing interest in joining the board. She added her belief that this school was a cut above others because of the superintendent, the ODE representative, and the staff who work to meet what is required.

V. Finance Committee Report

Mrs. Kuehnle informed the Board that the Finance Committee met prior to the meeting with the Treasurer. She reported the school is in a good financial situation and pointed out more money

being spent earlier in the year was normal. She did explain the committee had asked the Treasurer to determine if funds were available to provide Mrs. Blankenship with extra support so that she can offer the teachers the assistance they need. In addition, she requested he work with Mrs. Blankenship and Ms. Wood to make this happen as the teachers now have more supplies, better curriculum and training in their classrooms, and the Superintendent time working with them would ensure it was put to good use.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Dunn reminded the board members that the this was the last month the student population for June of 113.46 would be used for foundation payment purposes and the foundation payment of \$79,308.32 deposited based on these FTEs. Mrs. Dunn reported that the financial statements are in preparation and the audit for FY2021 in process.

Mrs. Gantz motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, and Mr. Storts seconded the motion. Mrs. Gantz asked if the audit deadline was always at the end of December. Mrs. Dunn responded yes even though in earlier years of the school, when performed by the Auditor of State, the audits were completed later than this deadline. Ms. Wood noted the board could elect to be audited every other year. Mrs. Dunn added the school administrators do learn from each audit performed which does lead to making the school processes even better. With no discussion, the motion was voted by roll call and carried 3-0

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Enrollment

K- 21
1- 14
2- 25
3- 23
4- 16
5- 9
Total- 108

Mrs. Blankenship reported the school was not accepting any more second graders because this is the maximum classroom size or fourth graders because the fourth and fifth grades are currently combined and has also reached maximum classroom size. When a fourth-grade teacher is hired, she explained, the fourth graders on the waiting list would be contacted. She added both first and third grades had room for more students.

- B. No Suspensions or Expulsions** – Mrs. Blankenship reported no suspensions or expulsions in August.
- C. Residency Verification** – Mrs. Blankenship reported five students had been selected for review.
- D. Beginning of the Year Assessments** – Mrs. Blankenship reported the classes were in the final stages of testing with STAR so she was not able to provide the results at this meeting. The Spire results, she stated, for reading intervention were not good. She explained 75% of the students are at the first level. Mrs. Blankenship pointed out few of the kindergarteners and first graders have preschool experience, and Ms. Wood suggested the administrators work with parents to enroll their children in Head Start programs. Mrs. Blankenship reported the kindergarten results were approximately 50-50, while the first-grade results were a little better, but second grade results were not good at all. She added the third-grade results

were the same as last year. She stated that at the next team meeting she would discuss with the teachers the students whose reading levels are much lower than they should be. The Superintendent explained her plans to help teachers organize and provide guidance as what groups should be doing. She further noted that during professional development on September 24 the first half of the day would be for Ready Math training and the second half would focus on intervention, what intervention looks like and the use of centers. Her goal, she stated, is to be in the classrooms more to observe and has a plan to start these interventions. In addition, she further noted, Mrs. Darling has been observing behavior in classrooms, recognized the issues and has made suggestions to the teachers. She has, she added, teachers who have volunteered to tutor after school. Mrs. Kuehnle asked if Teach America was available to assist in the classrooms, but Ms. Wood strongly recommended using individuals with training yet also added, at present, there are not enough people available. The other schools she works with, she stated, are also having trouble with the availability of volunteers. Mrs. Blankenship explained that the programs are scripted, and the aides are using Spire. She added she had interviewed a candidate who is interested in being an aide and pointed out the aides need to be assertive in the classrooms. Mrs. Kuehnle asked Ms. Wood if companies were offering employees as volunteers. Mrs. Gantz suggested volunteers from churches and asked if the volunteers need any specific qualifications. Ms. Wood responded volunteers need only a background check. Mrs. Kuehnle offered to reach out to a local church for volunteers. Ms. Wood asked if the retirement community would have volunteers. Mrs. Blankenship noted that the retirement community does partner with the school but reminded the board that the community is likely in lockdown due to COVID 19. Mrs. Blankenship said the programs require one to two hours, but she is particularly concerned about the time taken to pull students out of class when the schedule is already tight. She added the schedule would change when a fourth-grade teacher is hired.

- E. Application for Renewal of Sponsorship with the Ohio Department of Education – Mrs. Blankenship reported the application is currently in process and must be finished by end of the month. Mrs. Dunn asked if the board approval was need. Ms. Wood suggested a special meeting may be needed or adding the approval of the application to the agenda at the end of this meeting.
- F. Public Hearing Regarding The Planned Use of IDEA B Funds – Mrs. Blankenship explained a public hearing was held prior to this meeting. She added the majority of IDEA-B funds are used to pay the Intervention Specialist’s salary and also used for supplies.
- G. New Hire –Mrs. Blankenship reported the hiring of Tiffany Fort as Custodian. She explained Ms. Fort would work in the evenings and take care of every building, trash, sweep and mop. Ms. VanDyne cleans during the day and also acts as a monitor while in the cafeteria.
- H. New Hire – Mrs. Blankenship reported the hiring of Jamesetta Overstreet as the fourth and fifth grade teacher aide. She explained that her salary is the same as the other newly hired aide at \$14/hour.
- I. Stipend for Kellie Demmler – Mrs. Blankenship explained she would like to provide a \$250/pay stipend for Kellie Demmler for teaching both fourth and fifth grades until a fourth-grade teacher is hired but requested comments from the board. She further explained that once a fourth-grade teacher is hired, Ms. Demmler, the highest paid teacher, would have a class of nine fifth grade students. Ms. Wood questioned if Ms. Demmler was placed in fourth grade rather fifth grade once a teacher is hired if she would remain at the school. Ms. Kuehnle also asked if Ms. Demmler had requested additional pay for teaching two grade levels, and Mrs. Blankenship responded no. Mrs. Kuehnle inquired if a better alternative

would be to hire more aides for this combined classroom, but Ms. Wood reminded the board candidates for aide positions are not readily available. Mrs. Kuehnle asked how many students in the fourth and fifth grade class are working with the Intervention Specialist. Mrs. Blankenship answered five. The Superintendent stated Ms. Darling has observed the cramped classroom and the behavior in the two combined grade levels. Ms. Wood suggested moving the students to another room, but Mrs. Blankenship responded other rooms are not much larger. She also expressed her concerns that Ms. Demmler might be overwhelmed and resign. Mrs. Kuehnle stated her concern that providing this stipend would set a precedent and suggested whether stipends be given to a staff member after they go above and beyond the expectations. Mrs. Kuehnle does not suggest rewarding staff if the Superintendent is not happy with their overall performance. Ms. Wood recommended the board make a decision at the next meeting. Ms. Wood reminded the board of the lack of substitutes should this position be vacated. Ms. Wood asked if Ms. Darling could assist with fourth grade by pulling out students, and Mrs. Blankenship offered the possibility of adding a second aide in this classroom. Mrs. Kuehnle asked if another teacher could be assigned to this classroom, but the Superintendent answered no. Mrs. Blankenship questioned what might happen if she loses a teacher, and Ms. Wood stated the administrator would have to look at the other options. The Superintendent informed the Board of a possible candidate who would be available after the first quarter of school and could take the nine fifth grade students. Mrs. Gantz supported Mrs. Blankenship's recommendation as she is not onsite. Mrs. Kuehnle questioned whether offering a monetary sum would be enough for the teacher to remain on staff and suggested should a decision need to be made before the next board meeting, a special meeting could be called. Mrs. Blankenship expressed her fear that this classroom would be without a teacher. Mrs. Gantz ask if the fourth-grade age group normally has behavioral issues. Mrs. Blankenship responded that this particular group of students was difficult and currently decisions are being made regarding one student. She explained the student's parent has not been helpful in responding to the behavior, and the child would be suspended if the same behavior is repeated. Mrs. Kuehnle asked if the specific student's special education time could be increased, and Mrs. Blankenship answered she is scheduling more time with the Intervention Specialist. Ms. Wood asked if Mrs. Blankenship was concerned for the child's safety, but the Superintendent responded not at this time. Mrs. Blankenship reported she has requested cameras be added to that classroom for monitoring.

- J. Stipend for Keisha Nations – Mrs. Blankenship explained she would like to provide a \$100 stipend for going above and beyond in the kindergarten classroom.
- K. Board Policy Manual – Mrs. Blankenship reported she was asking the board to renew their approval of the manual which combined the original policies approved with all the policies approved by the board from that date.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- A. Be it resolved that the Board approves the hiring of Tiffany Fort, Custodian, for \$15/hour. The first of 19 pays for the 2021-2022 school year will begin October 5, 2021.
- B. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the hiring of Jamesetta Overstreet, Teacher's Aide, for \$14/hour. The first of 23 pays for the 2021-2022 school year will begin September 3, 2021.
- C. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the stipend in the amount of \$250 per pay for Kellie Demmler for teaching 4th and 5th grade starting with the September 20, 2021, payroll, until a 4th grade teacher is hired.

- D. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the stipend in the amount of \$100 for Keisha Nations to be paid on September 20, 2021.
- E. Be it Resolved that the Board approves the Board Policy Manual in its entirety for the 2021-2022 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 the acceptance of the Consent Agenda Items A, B, D and E, and Mr. Storts seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion was voted by roll call, and carried 3-0.

IX. Approval of Patricia King As A Member of the Governing Board

Mrs. Kuehnle asked Ms. King if she was still interested in becoming a governing board member, and she answered yes. Mrs. Gantz made the motion to appoint Patricia King to the governing board subject to the completion of all the required documentation. Mr. Storts seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion was voted by roll call, and carried 3-0. Mrs. Kuehnle welcomed Ms. King to the board.

X. ODE Representative Presentation

A. FTE review schools Published Today. – Ms. Wood reported that the school was not on the FTE Review List.

B. Reminders:

1. **Annual Report** – Ms. Wood noted the due date for this report is in October, and a letter from the Sponsor will sent by Ms. Wood to be included in the report. The report, she explained, should be distributed to parents and a link added to the website.
2. **Trainings** – Ms. Wood reported all board members have completed training with the exception of Mrs. Gantz and the newly appointed member. Ms. Wood offered to provide the training link and the certificates once training is completed.
3. **Conflict of Interest Forms** - Ms. Wood stated both Mrs. Gantz and Ms. King must provide the completed forms.
4. **BCI/FBI Checks** – Ms. Wood noted Ms. King will need to provide both and should request the checks be sent to the school. In addition, she noted out of pocket expenses would be reimbursed by the school.
5. **Title 9 Training** – Ms. Wood explained that this is an annual required training for all staff and recommended at least one board member attend. She offered that this site training could be provided by a legal professional who charges \$250 for the presentation. She further noted, once the training is completed, the training must be published on website.
6. **ESSER IDEA** - Ms. Wood reported \$6,257.70 of ESSER IDEA fund are available for additional services such as screenings and occupational therapy. These funds, she added, are provided over and above what is mandated for the school.
7. **Pandemic Closure and Attendance Requirements** – Ms. Wood informed the board that community schools cannot close the doors nor move to remote learning. She added the Board and the administrators could expect further guidance to be forthcoming after additional ODE meetings on this issue.


8. **Absences** – Mrs. Blankenship questioned the recording of COVID related absences. Ms. Wood responded that they should be recorded based on school policy.
9. **New PBIS Training and Restraint and Seclusion** – Ms. Wood informed the Board Mrs. Blankenship would be sent new protocols and all staff would need to be trained.
10. **Local Professional Development Committee** – Ms. Wood reported the Ohio Education Directory System has all local professional development registered and approved.
11. **Fire Drill** – Ms. Wood asked if a fire drill had been performed in the first ten days of school, and Mrs. Blankenship confirmed it had.
12. **Student Wellness and Success Report** – Ms. Wood reported this report is due this Friday.
13. **STAR Assessments** – Ms. Wood reported Mrs. Blankenship is ensuring this is done.
14. **TIDE** - Ms. Wood noted a password change is required.
15. **Title I Annual Meeting** – Ms. Wood informed the Board that this meeting is typically scheduled in the fall and parents should receive notification one week prior to the meeting.
16. **Continuous Comprehensive Improvement Plan Reporting** – This reporting, Ms. Wood stated, is due September 30. Mrs. Dunn informed the Board that the Treasurer would be completing these reports.
17. **Student Safety Grant Report** – Ms. Wood stated that this report is due.
18. **The Budget and Five Year Forecast** – Ms. Wood informed the Board that they would need to approve the budget and Five Year Forecast at the October board meeting to ensure both are submitted to the sponsor by the October deadline.
19. **Hinkle Report** – Ms. Wood noted this annual report is due.
20. **ODE IDEA B Hearing** – Ms. Wood confirmed that this hearing was held prior to the board meeting.
21. **Annual Audit** – As the school’s sponsor, Ms. Wood reminded the Board an ODE representative is to be on all pre- and post- audit conference calls with the auditor.

XI. **Next Board Meeting Monday, October 11, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.**

XII. **Adjournment**

Mrs. Gantz 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 7:07 p.m.



Sherry Kuehnle
10/11/21