



Aspen Academy Governance Committee Minutes

In attendance: Misty Schutrop, Kelley Blue, Aleida VanDerBrug, Kirsten Tyler, John Becker

Monday December 7th, 2015 4:00pm Location Aleida VanDerBrug' 2nd grade classroom

214 Out of State Travel by School Board Members---mandatory

The policy was reviewed and the committee recommends approving the Aspenized version of the MSBA policy.

414 Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or sexual Abuse

This policy was originally approved at Aspen Academy in May of 2008 and then removed by motion in 2010. It is identical to the policy used by another local charter school. The committee recommends using the same version as originally approved.

415 Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults

This policy was looked at and the committee recommends not adopting this policy at this time as we do not serve vulnerable adults.

Group Health Insurance Purchasing Policy

Was briefly discussed with no changes to the policy presented to the board in November.

Review Aspen Academy Bylaws

In preparation of a charter renewal application with Friends of Education, the bylaws were reviewed to make sure that they still reflect the governance model of Aspen Academy. The committee discussed the possibility of 3 year terms of board members in order to provide more continuity of oversight (however a board member may resign at anytime). It was thought that perhaps parent terms should be 3 years, but the idea of 3 years might dissuade community or teacher board candidates. 3 years is seen as offering more stability to the board however. A possible small stipend in the future at some point to cover expenses such as supplies or child care was discussed (this is not precluded in the current bylaws, just not stated in certain terms what the stipend be designed to reimburse or amount). The committee discussed that in certain years the budget may not allow for covering the costs incurred to board members for child care, meals, and supplies, but also that these costs and the time commitment may deter some people from running for a board position. The committee decided that it would be best to survey parents and teachers to see if a stipend would be any incentive to serving as a board member. If it is decided to pursue this, the language would reflect that the amount would be set each year and included in the budget. The current language may be sufficient and this may be able to be part of policy instead of a bylaw change.

The current bylaws state that the board "must" be comprised of 3 teachers. As the board has had difficulty in keeping 3 teachers, the committee is recommending that the bylaws state that the board will be comprised of 2-3 teachers with the intent to have 3 (language would not discourage having 3). The committee discussed the process of changing the bylaws and all steps would be properly followed.

Adjourned at 4:30pm

