



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 23, 2021 Time: 6:00pm

Location: Media Center  
 Zoom: Meeting ID: 953 1782 7550  
 Password: 9Tz6T8  
[https://zoom.us/j/95317827550?pwd=U09DODJSdE5WTnFVTFdW  
 a05HdnB5QT09](https://zoom.us/j/95317827550?pwd=U09DODJSdE5WTnFVTFdWa05HdnB5QT09)

### School Board Norms of Engagement 2021 The Board of Aspen Academy will

<b>Tenacity</b>	• form cohesion, cooperate, respectfully engage, listen effectively, and remain future minded.
<b>High Expectations</b>	• keep students first, speak with one voice, operate as a governance board.
<b>Integrity</b>	• always remain respectful to staff, employees, parents, students and other stakeholders, hear all voices before key decisions, maintain oversight, and work together to carry out our responsibilities.
<b>No Excuses</b>	• always assume positive intent, be accountable for self-behaviors and their impact on board activities, be open to clarifying questions, constructive comments and relevant discussions, and read all materials before board meetings.
<b>Kindness</b>	• treat each other with respect at all times, respect time allotted for all presentations at board meetings, and respect each other's time.

- **CALL TO ORDER AT 6:08pm**

In attendance Michael Faulise, Stephanie Smitley, Stephanie Peterson, Melanie Jiskra, Andrew Petrenko, Kelsey Carlson, April Schafer, Andrew Price, Rob Allison

Authorizer Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Community Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Community members must pre-register to speak at the meeting. Items are limited to those on the night's agenda. The Board Chair has the discretion to hear a community member who has not pre-registered, but items remain limited to those on the agenda.

- Motion: **Approval of Agenda with amendment.**

First Smitley Second Peterson Yes X(8) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_

**Roll Call:** Rob Allison Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Peterson Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Price Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Carlson Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Faulise Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Petrenko Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
April Schafer Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Smitley Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

- Motion: **Approval of Working session and special session Minutes** (January 25, 2021)  
First Smitley Second Peterson Yes X(8) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_

**Roll Call:** Rob Allison Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Peterson Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Price Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Carlson Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Faulise Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Petrenko Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
April Schafer Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Smitley Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

**ASPEN ACCOLADES** (Mrs. Jiskra): Kudos to the teachers who had conferences over 2 long days, lots of positive comments from parents. Testing window is finishing up, thank you to Angela, Steph, Rachel, Rebecca, Mandi, Rachel and Amanda for finding and getting those last kids assessed.

**Presentation by Kindergarten** – Mrs. Dyer, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Japel and Ms. Kemppainen

- It has been an intense year in Kindergarten with hybrid, distance and now having some students still distance while most are back in the classroom. It has been a struggle but students are growing each day.
- Yesterday was the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school – students were super excited, great attitudes, they spent the day building, counting and celebrating 100!
- Working together as a team has been a positive during this time, work together very cohesively
- Ms. Kemppainen has been enjoying being in Kindergarten this year. Been a struggle having 3 students distance while 20 in class and the noise level, etc can be an issue.
- New baby in Kinder! Congrats to Ms. Boie who welcomed a baby girl, Lola Faye on Saturday.

Thank you, Kindergarten!

**Approve the following consent agenda items:**

- **Hires - Resignations – Terminations – Non-Renewals**
  - Connie Freitag, Director (effective 1-22-21)
  - Nancy Schwartz, Para (effective 2-8-21)
  - Angela Berarnak, EA (effective 2-8-21)

First Smitley Second Carlson Yes X(8) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_

**Roll Call:** Rob Allison Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Michael Faulise Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Peterson Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Andrew Petrenko Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Price Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ April Schafer Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Carlson Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Stephanie Smitley Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

### Program Services Committee (Smitley/Carlson)

- Administration Report: Update on Special Education by Kelly Dietrich –
  - Schools get SpEd funding from 3 places, state, federal and 3<sup>rd</sup> party billing. Increase in number of students from last year, up to 79.
  - Looking at maintenance of effort for this year, Aspen is behind in spending and will need to spend more to catch up. Will spend on math curriculum, transportation, etc. MN requested waiver to allow schools not to have to spend up to their MOE due to lowered costs of the pandemic, waiver was denied.
  - Next year, can add school psychologist, might be decrease in transportation due to the new reduction in IDEA payments for transporting students outside of the district, would impact 4 families next year.
  - Coding errors may have occurred in FY20 for transportation. Kelly is still looking into the situation.
  - Lots of positive feedback from staff and parents about current school year
  - Caseloads are on the high side, Kelly recommends adding another teacher next year, a .25FTE due process person and increase in social work time.
  - SpEd teachers are hard to find, Kelly recommends a hiring bonus, comparable salary to a district or separate pay scale.
  - Lots of PD has happened this year for paras and staff
  - According to MACS and MSBA, doesn't look like a reduction in SpEd funding right now.
  - Other legislation possible coming up: 16 hours of training per year for paras, schools have a seizure action plan, Covid-19 recovery plan for SpEd students, and a bill to prohibit the dismissal of K-3 students.

Thank you, Kelly for the update!

Covid amendment update to the handbooks include travel recommendations from the CDC/MDH, quarantining recommendations and recommendations for those who have received 2 doses of the vaccine.

- Motion: **Approve the Covid related amendment to the Parent/Student/Guardian Handbook and the Employee Handbook.**

First Allison Second Carlson Yes X(8) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_

**Roll Call:** Rob Allison Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Peterson Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Andrew Price Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Carlson Yes X No \_\_\_\_

Michael Faulise Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Andrew Petrenko Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
April Schafer Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Smitley Yes X No \_\_\_\_

- Committee Report: The committee met last week to review 2 policies and the calendar for next year. MSBA updated face covering policy. The committee "Aspenized" it by adding director or designee instead of superintendent and added face coverings should not have offensive words and be school appropriate. Policy 505 only had a change from room number to teacher name. The committee discussed the calendar for next year. There were 2 options, 1 that started before Labor Day, 1 that started after. Teachers were given the calendars to comment on, 4 teachers email with comments. The committee chose to start before Labor Day. Please see the minutes on the website for more information.
- Motion: **Approve Policy 504.5 Face Covering, 1<sup>st</sup> Read**

First Carlson Second Smitley Yes X(8) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_

**Roll Call:** Rob Allison Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Peterson Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Andrew Price Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Carlson Yes X No \_\_\_\_

Michael Faulise Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Andrew Petrenko Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
April Schafer Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Smitley Yes X No \_\_\_\_

- Motion: **Approve Policy 505 Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees.**

First Smitley Second Petrenko Yes X(8) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_

**Roll Call:** Rob Allison Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Peterson Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Andrew Price Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Carlson Yes X No \_\_\_\_

Michael Faulise Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Andrew Petrenko Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
April Schafer Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Smitley Yes X No \_\_\_\_

- Motion: **Approve Aspen's 2021-2022 school calendar.**

First Carlson Second Smitley Yes X(8) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_

**Roll Call:** Rob Allison Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Peterson Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Andrew Price Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Carlson Yes X No \_\_\_\_

Michael Faulise Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Andrew Petrenko Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
April Schafer Yes X No \_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Smitley Yes X No \_\_\_\_

**Finance & Facility Committee** (Allison/Faulise/Schutrop)

- Administration Report: By Word of Mouth, Ltd. Contract in year 2 of 2. There are 3 options for busing next year: 1. Keep the same as we are doing now through PLS district 2. Use PLSBA directly with current bell schedule and similar calendar with 6 in-district and 2 out of district buses to get some of the cost from the state back. 3. Use PLSBA with option of having a different bell schedule and calendar. There would be an increase of \$25-\$50,000 for option 2. Option 3 wouldn't be needed since we aren't changing our schedule. Mr. Sandberg communicated with the district and they said they will make our 12:30 early releases work as well as the 2 hour releases. The board decided to stay with our current bus contract and does not need to approve a new one.

Did not need to approve new bus contract.

- Motion: **Approve the busing contract.**
  
- Committee Report: The committee met prior to the meeting tonight. Looking at a surplus of \$600,000. Still have ESSR funds available to spend over the next 2 years. Enrollment is currently 643, budgeted for 630. Enrollment is high for next year around 789, expected to decrease as usual between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. No update on facility. Admin and finance committee will start looking at FY22 in March, technology needs with Wade. Committee will meet to review special education maintenance of effort spending separately. No review of financials. No questions on the check register.
  
- Motion: **Approve the January check register.**

First Allison Second Smitley Yes X(8) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Roll Call:</b> Rob Allison	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____	Michael Faulise	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____
Stephanie Peterson	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____	Andrew Petrenko	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____
Andrew Price	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____	April Schafer	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____
Kelsey Carlson	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____	Stephanie Smitley	Yes <u>X</u>	No _____

**Board Elections, Responsibilities & Governance Committee** (Schutrop/Smitley)

- Committee Report: Did not meet

**Marketing and Community Engagement Committee** (Price/Schafer/Faulise)

- Committee Report: Did not meet

**Strategic Planning Committee** (Price/Peterson/Allison/Petrenko)

- Committee Report: Did not meet

- **Adjournment at 7:31pm**

- First Peterson Second Carlson Yes X(8) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_

**Roll Call:** Rob Allison Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Peterson Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Price Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Carlson Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Faulise Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Petrenko Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
April Schafer Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Smitley Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_