



## SPECIAL & CLOSED BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Date: August 25, 2021 Time: 4:15pm Location: Media Center

### 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 4:17pm**

In attendance Michael Faulise, Rob Allison, Andrew Price, Stephanie Smitley, April Schafer, Brandy Mosser, Melanie Jiskra

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. To register please email [Misty.Schutrop@aspenacademymn.org](mailto:Misty.Schutrop@aspenacademymn.org).

- Motion: Approval of Agenda with edit.**

First Schutrop Second Allison Yes X(6) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_

The administration has asked the board to approve wearing masks for everyone once school starts. A board member asked if there were any parameters to take us out of the mask mandate. No metrics at this time, but districts are working on them. Mrs. Jiskra is on the weekly calls with the county and MDE, talk about cases per 10,000, to end the mandate the number would need to drop below a certain threshold and stay there. The meeting Thursday will look at threshold numbers. Prior Lake district is also looking at thresholds and will share that information. Their board has mandated masks this afternoon. Mrs. Jiskra shared that the best place for kids to be is in school. By masking, it reduces the quarantine time for students and teachers, keeping them in school longer. The guidelines say to make an attempt to keep 3 feet distance. Board members

acknowledged the passion around not having students in masks. A dozen or so emails were sent to board members regarding this topic. A board member shared that when Aspen was first founded, there was a lot of passion around uniforms, Core Knowledge topics, hiring practices, etc. so they understand people's passion. Aspen is also a school of choice and the board does what they feel is best for the building. Another board member was concerned if masking was a choice, would teachers remember who was wearing a mask when if there needed to be contact tracing done. Seems like a significant loss of time in school was not addressed in emails and it is important for the board to listen to admin. From a teacher standpoint, want the kids in school. Distance learning option – not completely off the table, admin is looking into possible different options, but nothing at this time unless we were mandated by the state to do distance. Mrs. Jiskra shared that Aspen did apply for a provisional online learning license. A board member shared that Prior Lake extended their op-in timeline for their online school. A board member shared that it has been a struggle, attended board meetings for Prior Lake, parent's want the right to choose. They see that throughout the Prior Lake community. Wants what's best for kids, be in school. A board member stated that it is enacting a policy for public places, kind of like a stop sign. With the issue of quarantining, teachers most effective by not having to worry about who was wearing a mask when. A member said wearing masks will also help keep teachers in the classroom. Another member stated that they understand that having a choice would be ideal, but again as with the uniform or Singapore math or Core Knowledge, these are not options for Aspen. Yes, these are curriculum choices and not health choices. A board member shared the example of peanuts in schools, some schools have peanut free areas and children aren't allowed to bring peanuts into school. A communication would go out to parents from administration, should give reasons, show impact of quarantine. Be prepared for kickback and knowing CDC guidelines for schools.

- Motion: **Approve Health and Safety Measures 2021-2022 board resolution.**

First Schutrop Second Price Yes X(5) No Schafer Abst \_\_\_\_\_

No changes were made to the policy since the last read last week. Don't need to add any language about when wearing masks will start since the school will now require them for all. Policy came from Friends of Education through Amy Mace, legal counsel.

- Motion: **Approve Policy 504.5 Face Coverings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Read.**

First Smitley Second Schutrop Yes X(5) No Schafer Abst \_\_\_\_\_

No changes were made to the quarantine policy. One optional section was removed since it does not apply to Aspen. Policy came from Friends of Education through Amy Mace, legal counsel.

- Motion: **Approve Policy 536 Covid-19 Quarantines, 2<sup>nd</sup> Read.**

First Allison Second Smitley Yes X(6) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_

- Motion: **Approve Friends of Aspen Academy board members Rachel Mong as President, Jeff Reistad as Treasurer and Jeff Roark as Secretary.**

First Smitley Second Schutrop Yes X(6) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_

- **Motion:** Approve the following: The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requires that school districts annually designate an Identified Official with Authority to comply with State Access Control Security Standard 1.0 which states that all user access rights to Minnesota state systems must be reviewed and recertified at least annually. The Identified Official with Authority will assign job duties and authorize external user's access to MDE secure systems for their local education agency (LEA). The Board recommends to authorize Melanie Jiskra to act as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for Aspen Academy 4184-07.

First Schutrop Second Smitley Yes X(6) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_

The board did not close the meeting. Waiting for more information.  
Special Closed session for the review of administrative employment agreements.

- **Motion to close the session**
- **Motion to open the session**
- **Approval of changes to the agreements**
- **Adjournment at 4:56pm**
- First Smitley Second Allison Yes X(6) No \_\_\_\_\_ Abst \_\_\_\_\_