



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 21, 2021 Time: 6:00pm Location: Gym

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

Tenacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> form cohesion, cooperate, respectfully engage, listen effectively, and remain future minded.
High Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> keep students first, speak with one voice, operate as a governance board.
Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
No Excuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Kindness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 6:03pm**

Board meetings are always open, even closed meetings at the beginning. Committee meetings are the place to participate.

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

First Allison Second Smitley Yes X(8) No _____ Abst _____

Board training with Amy Mace who will discuss open meeting law and gender inclusion

- Ms. Mace spoke to the board on the updated Open Meeting Law, reviewing notice requirements, emergency meetings, circumstances to close a meeting, circumstances which a closed meeting is permitted, but not required and procedures for closing a meeting.
- Ms. Mace also spoke on the Gender Inclusion policy and the court case N.H v. Anoka-Hennepin School District that went to the Minnesota Court of Appeals in 2020 which found school districts must follow the law and allow transgender

students to use facilities consistent with their gender identity and failure to do so could lead to liability under both the MHRA and the Minnesota Constitution.

In attendance James Jotter, Eric Sandberg, Brandy Mosser, Andrew Petrenko, Rob Allison, Michael Faulise, April Schafer, Misty Schutrop, Stephanie Smitley, Andrew Price, Melanie Jiskra

Authorizer Comments Liz Wynne in attendance.

Community Comments Heather Roark – gender inclusion, Amy Hoyd – gender inclusion, Lisa Atkinson – board elections, responsibilities, and governance, Natalie Barnes - election, Mark Herendeen – gender inclusion, Sherly Price – gender inclusion.

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 Minutes** (August 17th and Special Meeting August 25th, 2021).

First Schutrop Second Smitley Yes X(8) No _____ Abst _____

ASPEN ACCOLADES (Mrs. Jiskra): Dr. Parson for beginning reading interventions 1st week of school and to our building subs (Hannah, Stacie and Rebecca) for helping get kiddos assessed. Maureen Stevenson for working diligently for many hours on contact tracing and contacting families. Nathan Tuma, school counselor for helping our new to school students get acclimated. Thank you to the board for their support.

Approve the following consent agenda items:

- **Hires - Resignations – Terminations – Non-Renewals**
 - Victoria Cephlecha, EA (effective 8-16-21)
 - Laurie Schafroth, para (effective 9-3-21)

First Smitley Second Petrenko Yes X(8) No _____ Abst _____

- Motion: **Approve** the write-off of the accumulated total of \$546,397.11 related to interfund balances between the General Fund and the Building Company through additional lease expenditures to cover building company related expenditures that do not have a specific funding source.

First Schutrop Second Allison Yes X(8) No _____ Abst _____

Audit presentation by Andrew Grice from BerganKDV

- Aspen received a clean audit, no internal control findings, enrollment was 646 ADM, fund balance 21.4%, improved from 2019. Thank you to the Aspen staff and Robin for assisting with the audit.

Program Services Committee (Smitley)

- Administration Report: Enrollment and lottery dates as stated in the motion. Application will be released beginning 10/15.
- Motion: **Approve the following dates for 2022-2023 enrollment and lottery: 10/15/21 Application opens, 12/22/21 applications due and 1/5/21 lottery.**

First Allison Second Schafer Yes X(8) No _____ Abst _____

- Committee Report: The gender inclusion policy is up for a 2nd read. Robust board discussion around the policy. Legal counsel was present to answer board questions. She iterated that this is Minnesota law of the land currently whether there is a policy or not and if there is not, could open Aspen to a claim.

Recess was called at 7:35pm

Meeting resumed 7:42pm

Robust discussion continued between board members with legal counsel providing information and guidance.

- Motion: **To postpone approval and acceptance of policy.**

First Petrenko Second Schafer Yes 4(Allison, Faulise) No _____ Abst _____

- Motion: **Approve the gender inclusion policy, 2nd read.**

First Schutrop Second Price Yes 4 (Mosser, Smitley) No ___ Abst _____

Finance & Facility Committee (Allison/Faulise/Schutrop)

- Committee Report: Committee met prior to the board meeting, discussed FY22 budget, enrollment, facility, audit and needs assessment. Presentation of Financials by Robin Pikal – 17% through fiscal year, revenue is 14%, expenses 11%, nothing in food service fund since school had not started, DCOH 106 combined. Now that audit is complete, starting balance will be consistent. No questions on the check register.

- Motion: **Approve the August check register.**

First Allison Second Petrenko Yes X(8) No _____ Abst _____

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

- Committee Report: Election update – letter went out Sept 14th, next election will be in May to mirror the fiscal year cycle. This election has 3 teacher spots, 2 community member spots, 2 years each Jan 1 to Dec 31st. Application was sent as link, due Oct 13th. Board packet will go out, absentee ballots only, parents and staff can vote. Committee will meet October 7th. Full board is 10 members, currently have 8 (5 parents, 3 teachers, 2 community members), will have some overlap of members during the fiscal year transition.

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

- Committee Report: Did not meet.

Strategic Planning Committee (Price/Allison/Petrenko)

- Committee Report: Met Sept 14th. Looked at draft Strategic Plan, will revisit. Julie Goldsmith will meet with the committee to revisit the plan and update it. Minnesota School of Excellence program will assist in writing a plan, is a 1-2 year program.
- Motion: **Approve moving forward with strategic plan facilitator and Minnesota School of Excellence program.**

First Price Second Petrenko Yes X(8) No _____ Abst _____

- **Adjournment at 8:21pm**

- First Schutrop Second Smitley Yes X(8) No _____ Abst _____