



BOARD MEETING Minutes

Date: December 14, 2021 Time: 6:00pm

Location: Location: By Zoom:

Meeting ID: 953 1782 7550

Password: 9Tz6T8

<https://zoom.us/j/95317827550?pwd=U09DODJSdE5WTnFVTFdWa05HdnB5QT09>

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 6:04**

In attendance Michael Faulise, Misty Schutrop, April Schafer, Andrew Price, Andrew Petrenko, Brandy Mosser, Rachel Mong, Rob Allison (arrived late), Melanie Jiskra, James Jotter, Julie Martini, Eric Sandberg

Authorizer Comments _____

Community Comments Becca Moser and Nikki Saputo

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 additions**

First Rachel Mong Second Andrew Price Yes X(7) No Abst

Roll Call: Rob Allison Yes ___ No ___
Rachel Mong Yes X No ___
Andrew Price Yes X No ___
Stephanie Smitley Yes ___ No ___
Brandy Mosser Yes X No ___

Michael Faulise Yes X No ___
Andrew Petrenko Yes X No ___
April Schafer Yes X No ___
Misty Schutrop Yes X No ___

- Motion: **Approval of Minutes** (November 16th, 2021) and **Special meetings** (Nov 29th and December 6th).

First Misty Schutrop Second Andrew Petrenko Yes X(7) No ___ Abst _____

Roll Call: Rob Allison Yes ___ No ___
Rachel Mong Yes X No ___
Andrew Price Yes X No ___
Stephanie Smitley Yes ___ No ___
Brandy Mosser Yes X No ___

Michael Faulise Yes X No ___
Andrew Petrenko Yes X No ___
April Schafer Yes X No ___
Misty Schutrop Yes X No ___

Last community candidate interview with Erica Schipani

The board asked the same questions, in the same order as were asked to other candidates on Monday, December 6th.

ASPEN ACCOLADES (Mrs. Jiskra):

Mrs. Jiskra thanked the staff who have been working so hard on the cusp of reaching the thresholds that would change our model to Distance Learning, but we are so thankful that Aspen is doing well keeping the kids in school. The full time subs have been doing great and everyone is jumping in to help where needed.

Motion: Approve the following consent agenda items:

- **Hires - Resignations – Terminations – Non-Renewals**
 - Lynn Zemlin, para (effective 11-23-21)
 - Lindsey Ball, para (effective 12-7-21)

First April Schafer Second Brandy Mosser Yes X(7) No ___ Abst _____

Roll Call: Rob Allison Yes ___ No ___
Rachel Mong Yes X No ___
Andrew Price Yes X No ___
Stephanie Smitley Yes ___ No ___
Brandy Mosser Yes X No ___

Michael Faulise Yes X No ___
Andrew Petrenko Yes X No ___
April Schafer Yes X No ___
Misty Schutrop Yes X No ___

Presentation by 1st Grade

Melody Sandell shared about reading in 1st grade. Students are working on comprehension and making connections. They are visualizing while reading and working on vocabulary.

Johanna Haseltine spoke about how well writing is going. The students have moved from basics to using reading as a guide to their theme for writing. The students are sharing their writing with other students and have been so proud of themselves.

Carissa Moe shared about the new social studies and science programs that are aligned to Core Knowledge. The programs have a lot of hands-on activities and teachers received some great materials over the summer. The students are working on a Sun/Moon/Stars unit doing observations throughout the year. The materials really allow the topics to come alive for the students. Students are all also working on addition and subtraction of numbers to 20s using several strategies and doing math crafts, which they are really enjoying.

Marilyn Torvik spoke about the Construction day that the teachers set up for the 1st graders. The kids wore hats and goggles and were excited to wear their tool belts while constructing sentences, numbers and a habitat. The teachers favorite part was seeing all the students while the teachers safely switched for activities.

Program Services Committee

The committee did not meet

Finance

- **Committee Report: Presentation of Financials.**
The finances are in good shape and the committee will meet in January and February most likely, to work with Admin and Tag for a working budget revision.
- **Motion: Approve the November check register.**

First Rob Allison Second Andrew Petrenko Yes X(8) No ___ Abst ___

Roll Call: Rob Allison Yes X No ___ Michael Faulise Yes X No ___
Rachel Mong Yes X No ___ Andrew Petrenko Yes X No ___
Andrew Price Yes X No ___ April Schafer Yes X No ___
Stephanie Smitley Yes ___ No ___ Misty Schutrop Yes X No ___
Brandy Mosser Yes X No ___

Governance

- **Administration Report: Staff climate survey results**

This is the 4th year the survey has been done so the results show some trend data that is good to see. This year's survey had the highest positive results in 4 years in all categories, including safety which is good to see. The admin team feels that communication is good and positive in nature. All staff are thinking outside the box in areas for improvement and the staff will work with the admin team for an action plan for improvements. Board members were pleased to see positive comments and ideas.
- **Motion: Approve the professional development plan for Eric Sandberg.**

First Rob Allison Second Rachel Mong Yes X(8) No ___ Abst ___

Roll Call: Rob Allison Yes X No _____
Rachel Mong Yes X No _____
Andrew Price Yes X No _____
Stephanie Smitley Yes _____ No _____
Brandy Mosser Yes X No _____

Michael Faulise Yes X No _____
Andrew Petrenko Yes X No _____
April Schafer Yes X No _____
Misty Schutrop Yes X No _____

- **Committee Report:**

Appointment of Community Member candidates to be done by show of hands of board members. Appointment is for a 6 month term only and if appointed candidates are interested in continuing on past June 30th, they must run in the Spring 2022 election. Board members may vote up to 2 times, but voting twice is not required.

Stacy Crakes- 6 votes

Spencer Lerum- 2 votes

Monica Nelson- 1 vote

Erica Schipani- 5 votes

- **Motion: Approve the appointment of community board member Stacy Crakes, pending background check.**

First Andrew Price Second Rob Allison Yes 7 No 1 Abst _____

Roll Call: Rob Allison Yes X No _____
Rachel Mong Yes X No _____
Andrew Price Yes X No _____
Stephanie Smitley Yes _____ No _____
Brandy Mosser Yes X No _____

Michael Faulise Yes X No _____
Andrew Petrenko Yes _____ No X
April Schafer Yes X No _____
Misty Schutrop Yes X No _____

- **Motion: Approve the appointment of community board member Erica Schipani, pending background check.**

First Rachel Mong Second Andrew Price Yes 7 No 1 Abst _____

Roll Call: Rob Allison Yes X No _____
Rachel Mong Yes X No _____
Andrew Price Yes X No _____
Stephanie Smitley Yes _____ No _____
Brandy Mosser Yes X No _____

Michael Faulise Yes X No _____
Andrew Petrenko Yes _____ No X
April Schafer Yes X No _____
Misty Schutrop Yes X No _____

Marketing

Committee will try to meet in Januray

Strategic Planning

- Committee Report:
Will try to schedule with Julie after January for the next phase in the strategic planning process. Will look at the end of January into February. Likely a weekend longer session. Will look at options.

Parent Questions/Issues Received Prior to the Meeting

- I consulted at least 20 other parents to ask if they understood from communications that questions for candidates were encouraged from parents; all of them replied no. In the future it would be helpful to state that clearly as none of the parents understood that to be the case.

On October 18th, the candidate packet went out to the Aspen Community with the invitation on page one, near the middle, to submit questions for candidates to the board.of.directors email. No questions were received.

- Is the goal of the board and all of its members to only have likeminded board members who agree with every single subject that comes to the board?

No, that is not the goal of the board. The hope for any group of board members, is that they will come to consensus, as a group, after discussion based on their unique background. Each member is encouraged to vote based on their own personal choice. Once a motion is passed or voted down, it is the responsibility of each board member to support the final decision regardless of their personal vote.

- Are you afraid to have legitimate discussions?

No

- Would you have recognized Aspens new by-laws without a consultation with Friends of Education and your attorneys after anomalies of your board election were brought to your attention by parent stakeholders?

As stated in previous communication, the Board misunderstood and miscommunicated the need for a 2021 election. The Board mistakenly understood that terms ending should be filled by election. In the past a "vacancy" has almost always been created by board member leaving during their term, and the Board appointed to fill that vacancy if there was an interested individual. This time the vacancies were created by terms ending based on the former calendar year model. We apologize for our misunderstanding of how the vacancies were to be filled.

- We understand as parent stakeholders it's obvious parents input is really not important to the board nor administration as none of the interview questions even asked about parents. Can we possibly get a general outlook on what the boards goals are regarding parent stakeholders?

The role of the Board of Directors is to evaluate the Executive Director, approve all significant educational and operational policies, monitor compliance, as well as other possible duties in accordance with the law and stated in charter law 124E. While there is opportunity for input by all community members during a committee meeting, the board does not have goals around parent stakeholders.

- I have noticed that parental input into many decisions that Aspen makes do not matter to Aspen our voices are not being heard. It also doesn't matter who we voted for and you will be making your own decisions who to pick. May I ask why? These are our children, we parents donate money to this school we support it yet we don't matter. Why this change? I am disappointed in this school and how parents are treated.

The board mistakenly understood that the community member and teacher spots whose terms were ending Dec 31 of this year were to be filled by election. Instead, based on the language in the bylaws, these positions are considered a vacancy and are filled by appointment until the election in the Spring of 2022. All 3 teacher spots and both community member spots are up for election in the Spring.

- Why is it coming to light only now after we've already held the elections that there should not have been an election for this year in the first place? And this after you already swore in a new member early? To what end does the board need to set their own members for the remainder of the school year? This kind of behavior coming from the school board seem less than transparent and since there can be no parent involvement in the school due to covid it all honestly feels a bit questionable to me. It makes me feel as though by appointing interim board members it allows you to generate an atmosphere to slip things through that perhaps many families at aspen are not aware of or comfortable with. And all of it seems to be done with little parental oversight. I e heard the term shady being used before and forgive me if I'm wrong but the behavior of the board regarding this election has been questionable and now that it's over you happen to say whoops we overlooked the fact that we can pick our own members this year...

The new bylaws were approved in August of 2021 and based on the belief of the Board, the 2021 election was communicated in September. This is in accordance with the number of days required for announcements. The member that was appointed filled a vacancy caused by the resignation of a teacher member. This position will be up for election in the Spring of 2022. The Board will need to appoint the community member vacancies and has already appointed the teacher vacancies for the remainder of the school year.

A big Thank You to April Schafer for her time on the Board. We appreciate all the years you have dedicated and you will be missed.

- **Adjournment at 7:12**

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

Roll Call: Rob Allison Yes X No _____
Rachel Mong Yes X No _____
Andrew Price Yes X No _____
Stephanie Smitley Yes _____ No _____
Brandy Mosser Yes X No _____

Michael Faulise Yes X No _____
Andrew Petrenko Yes X No _____
April Schafer Yes X No _____
Misty Schutrop Yes X No _____