



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 18th, 2023 Time: 6:00pm Location: Aspen Media Center

School Board Norms of Engagement 2023 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 6:00pm**

In attendance Melanie Jiskra, Brandy Mosser, Andrew Price, Kristin Carlson, Chris DiCapo, Stephanie Smitley, Michael Faulise

Authorizer Comments _____

Community Comments _____

Community members must pre-register to speak at the meeting. Items are limited to those motions 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, as edited.**

First Carlson Second DiCapo Yes X(5) No _____ Abst _____

- Motion: **Approval of Minutes** (August 21st, 2023).

First Mosser Second Smitley Yes X(5) No _____ Abst _____

ASPEN ACCOLADES (Mrs. Jiskra): Thanks to the Title 1 team (Dr. Parson, Ms. Kathie, Ms. Jazmin, Mrs. Smitley) for getting interventions started the 3rd week of school!

Approve the following consent agenda items:

- **Hires - Resignations – Terminations – Non-Renewals**

- Jill Ruekert, health aide (effective 8-21-23)
- Afifa Ahmed, para (effective 8-21-23)
- Talen Senum, in-house sub (effective 8-21-23)
- Deka Awmaalim, para (effective 8-23-23)
- Emely Contreras, para (effective 8-30-23)
- Hessouwe Bodjona, health aide (effective 8-28-23)
- Thomas McEachern, custodian (effective 8-28-23)
- Shawna Wellman, lunchroom assistant (effective 9-5-23)
- Thomas Foust, head custodian/building maintenance (effective 8-31-23)
- Ethan Devary, para (effective 9-5-23)

First Smitley Second Mosser Yes X(5) No _____ Abst _____

Program Services Committee (Smitley/Mosser)

- Administration Report: Special Education update from Director Dr. Grossman
 - Aspen serves: 31% autism, 26% speech, 11% SLD, 9% dev delay, 8% ED, other 12.5%. Center based program serves 5 students.
 - Needs have changed over time, 2017 19% autism, now 31%. Shortages in staffing, celebrate returning staff.
 - SpEd finance: maintenance of effort FY23 \$1,238,664, average \$11,910/student, lower than other districts. 104 students.
 - Target areas: early intervention – PBIS and MTSS, building student independence and using students as problem solvers, decisions centered on student outcomes, measured impact.

Thank you, Dr. Grossman!

Faulise arrived 6:24pm

- Committee Report: The committee did not meet.

Finance & Facility Committee (Allison/Price)

- Administration Report: Enrollment numbers are down from budgeted amount, some grade levels have a waitlist. Asking board to overenroll up to 3 students to take those students off the waitlist for the current school year.
- Motion: **Approve over enrolling each K-5 section up to 3 students for the 2023-2024 school year.**

First Smitley Second Carlson Yes X(6) No _____ Abst _____

- Committee Report: Presentation of Financials by Nate Winter – 17% of the fiscal year complete, budget set at 650, current enrollment 625, will look at revising budget after Oct 1. Holdback included, still owed \$726,000. Revenue 16%, expenditures 12% (fridge, curriculum), higher line items are due to heavy purchases in beginning of the year. Audit next month. Will look into coding security improvements into building maintenance fund.
- Motion: **Approve the August check register.**

First Carlson Second Mosser Yes X(6) No _____ Abst _____

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

- Committee Report: There is 1 parent seat and 2 community member seats open on the board for the term ending June 30, 2024. 4 parents applied, 3 attended the meeting tonight. Board will vote next month on a parent member. Even if not appointed, stay involved through committee meetings, PTO, etc.

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

- Administration Report: Prior Lake Community event tonight, Lydia has a table. School tour dates are set through March every other week. Ice cream social and parent class meeting on Thursday.
- Committee Report: The committee did not meet.

Strategic Planning Committee (Price/Mosser)

- Committee Report: Update on Strategic Plan process – Andrew and Melanie met to go over strategic plan. Will use Julie Goldsmith again. Look into parent engagement night with facilitator, board retreat after.

- **Adjournment at** 6:47pm

First Smitley Second Mosser Yes X(6) No _____ Abst _____