

Academy Adventures Midtown School Governing Board Meeting Minutes

3025 N. Winstel Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716

October 31, 2019 – 12:30 PM

1. Call to Order, Role Call

The meeting was called to order at 12:42 PM by Cathy Rex
Members Present: John T. Penczar, Cathy Rex, Carol Towner (Telephonically)
Member Absent: Nikki Pitman
Public: Angela Towner, David DeConcini & Gary Best

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 4, 2019

Motion by Ms. Cathy Rex/second by Mr. Jack Penczar - The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: Carol Towner, Jack Penczar & Cathy Rex

3. Enrollment Update

- We have lost 8 students, 3 families, in the last 3 days, for a total of 7.5 FTE. Two of the families moved to another part of town and the other family left for personal reasons. That leaves the enrollment at 36 students and 33.5 FTE.
- That will put a significant dent in our budget come 100th day.
 - We may need to make some significant program changes and decide the best way to handle that.
 - We want to try to keep all staff. We just added three new people, including 2 Title I Interventionists and 1 parapro who is also doing most of our Title IV-A Healthy Snack program. They have all been a great asset to the program.
 - We are doing more testing and intervention through Title I to help the students' progress
- We need to come up with creative ways to try to recruit new students. There was a major drug bust a few houses down last night, we have some concern that that may impact the school but will not know until the story breaks tonight. Cathy asked what we thoughts we have right now on recruiting:
 - Contacting and partnering more with the neighborhood association. Offer our building to have the meetings at, maybe get out info in their emails, etc. to try to get our name and info out there.
 - Figure out ways to better involve the community such as maybe doing some type of Health Fair on campus for our families and neighborhood.
- Cathy suggested considering turning one of the rooms into a Pre-School program. Not to have the program run by the school, but another organization/company. That might help feed students into our school. Maybe partnering with Foster Family organizations.
- Cathy inquired if there were maybe some churches in the area that might be having a winter or spring festival that maybe we could have a table at. Jack has contacted churches in the area in the past and they were not interested in helping us.

No Action Needed

4. Discuss and Approve Budget Strategies

With the low enrollment, there may need to be some changes made to the budget to ensure we make it through the school year. Mr. Penczar wants to make sure that the Administrative staff has the flexibility to make changes they deem necessary. Example might be if we are able to find someone to buy the building and then we just pay them rent. This would make it easier for the non-profit if a closure became necessary.

The Board felt there was no need for an approval at this point, as such significant changes will not need to happen until further down the road.

No Action Needed

5. School Calendar thru Winter Break

Angela briefed the Board on upcoming events taking place at the school:

- Tuesday, November 5th is Taco Tuesday (K/1 and 4/5 classes will be performing), followed by a Taco lunch for all
- December Baking Days:
 - Tamales (Thursday, December 5th)
 - Lasagna (Thursday, December 12th)
 - Cookie Decorating and Polar Express (Thursday, December 19th)
- Galileo Testing the week of December 9th
- Annual Cookies and Cocoa Holiday Performance is on Friday, December 13th at 9:00 AM
- Winter Break is December 20-January 4

Board Members are welcome to join us for any events happening at the school! We would love to have them!

Cathy asked if we had decided on the End of Year Family Field Trip. That has not been decided. We seem to be very low on parent participation this year. Many of our parents now work and do not have and/or make time to be an active participant in their child's education. We are trying to increase that with:

- Weekly stories sent to families through our Parent Texting Program to get parents to be more involved with their child's school work at home, and in return help the child's reading to improve.
- Putting on events and inviting parents to participate/come

Cathy asked if there was something we could do to help support the parents. Jack discussed how most of the parents just are not interested in being involved. The change/shift in society has made it difficult to get parents to be more involved in their child's schools/education. Jack suggested that maybe we make up some coupons to put at the storage facility down the road that would allow parents to come by and get a raffle ticket to win a dozen tamales or something.

No Action Needed

6. Set up Next Board Meeting

Next Board Meeting set for Friday, December 13th at 12:30 PM

7. Call for Public Comment

No public comment.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Cathy Rex/second by Mr. Jack Penczar - The Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 1:23 PM.

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: Carol Towner, Jack Penczar & Cathy Rex