

Academy Adventures Midtown School Governing Board Meeting Minutes

3025 N. Winstel Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716

February 6, 2020 - 2:30 PM

1. Call to Order, Role Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 PM by Cathy Rex
Members Present: John T. Penczar, Cathy Rex, Carol Towner (Telephonically)
Member Absent: Nikki Pitman
Public: Angela Towner, Earl Doran & Gary Best (Telephonically)

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 13, 2019

Motion by Ms. Carol Towner/second by Ms. Cathy Rex - The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

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

3. Review and Approval of Homeless Policy

Copy of the Homeless Policy was distributed to all Board Members to review and discuss. Mr. Doran questioned the fact that according to the Policy we have to accept all children, regardless of proof of immunization and feels that that could be a health and safety issue for staff and students. It seems to trump the requirement that all students are required by state law to have proof of immunization. Board members agreed that that is a concern and how could/would the school deal with that.

Mr. Penczar explained that although proof of immunization is required, there is also the option of parents signing waivers stating they do not want their child to receive immunizations. With the understanding that the health and safety of staff and students is a number one priority, if a child were to try to enroll that that did not have proof of immunization and appeared to be ill, there were procedures that school would follow such as calling the paramedics to have the child checked before being able to attend, but the child could still register. Mr. Penczar assured the Board that all precautions would be taken, while abiding by the McKinney Vento Laws of having to enroll the child.

Motion by Ms. Cathy Rex/second by Mr. Jack Penczar - The Board unanimously voted to accept the Homeless Policy pending the following: 1) The Homeless Policy date be updated showing it has been reviewed; 2) Include language in the Homeless Policy that indicates that the health and safety of the staff and other students is considered when the child is registered; and 3) the Homeless Policy works in conjunction with other policies such as capacity and illness that the school already has in place.

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

4. Report on Visit from ADE Support & Innovation Unit (School Improvement)

On January 29, 2020, Jennifer Zorger from ADE Support & Innovation Unit came and visited the school. She is assigned to help us since we are labeled a "F" school. Meg Cota, was originally assigned to our school, however she left ADE in December and we were reassigned, temporarily until they find a replacement in Tucson for Meg Cota. Jennifer spent about 4 hours at the school and spoke with staff, visited classrooms with Mrs. Towner Mertz and spoke with Administration. A copy of her Review was given to all Board members to review. A copy will also be sent by Jennifer to the Charter Board.

The visit went well, and she was happy with the improvements she saw. Based on her short time in the classrooms (less than 10 minutes) she made recommendations that the Administration will discuss with

the staff. She also suggested that we apply for one of the grants. Depending on what is required, the Superintendent will weigh the benefits of applying for the grant. There are some changes that need to be made to our current IAP and Administration is working on those updates.

Some of the strengths she observed included: A positive learning climate, positive relationship and communication between staff and administration, an open, problem solving culture and Improvement in student assessment data. Challenges were identified as low enrollment, parental involvement, low skill levels of the student and students struggling with the CKLA curriculum.

We may or may not have another visit before school is out, that will depend on their staffing.

No Action Needed

5. Report on Student Assessments

All but one student has improved on their DIBELS, some as much as 60-70% improvement. According to these results, students are finally “showing what they know” and that is reflecting on their assessments. Galileo was reviewed last meeting and almost all of the students demonstrated progress, with the exception of about 5 students.

Data is clearly showing that the students are doing better and we continue to remind the students to “show what they know” and encourage them to increase their scores. Extra practice and assessments are being done with students in grades 3-5 to prepare for the AzM2 test (formally AzMERIT). There will be a total of 13 students tested this year, 7 less than last year.

No Action Needed

6. Update on 2020-2021 CNA (Comprehensive Needs Assessment) and its implications for program in the school year

The CNA covers 6 different Principles. Angela and Tricia will be going through each Principle with the teachers over the next couple of weeks. This information is then used to determine which three (3) Needs to focus on for the coming school year. This information is then discussed and a root cause analysis is done. This information is then used to determine how Title funds will be used and what information will be added to our annual IAP (Integrated Action Plan). The IAP includes Smart Goals and how the Title money is distributed.

No Action Needed

7. Presentation and Discussion of High School Student Letter

Mr. Penczar received a letter from a High School student is attending University High School (UHS) and is in their choir. The choir is raising money to go to The White House to perform. She would like to talk to the students about high school, how important it is to work hard and be motivated and the many opportunities that are available in high school when you study, do your homework and work hard to “show what you know”. She has several ties to the school, she currently has a brother who is attending and had another brother who attended last year.

Mr. Penczar is going to meet with her and her mother today at 4:00 PM, to discuss her letter and setting up a time to come and speak with the students. Having her come and speak with the students involves community which is something that school has written into their current IAP. Mr. Penczar would like to use some of the scholarship money that has been set aside by the Ed Ahead, Inc. Board to give a few hundred dollars to UHS to put towards the trip for the students. The Ed Ahead Board has approved the use of those funds for this purpose.

Ms. Rex suggested that we tie in our end of year trip to help motivate students. Letting them know that by working hard and raising the money the opportunities are endless. Maybe have her come back after her trip to tell the students about how it went and what she learned from going.

No Action Needed

8. Set up Next Board Meeting

Next Board Meeting set for Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 2:30 PM

9. Call for Public Comment

No public comment.

10. 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