

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
8550 Curran Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana
5:30 p.m.
April 7, 2021

MINUTES

Attending:

1. Barbara Crain-Major, President
2. Louvinia Wallace, Vice President
3. Ora Wiley, Treasurer
4. Cheryl Beaco, Secretary
5. Debra Adams, Member
6. Terry Clay, Member
7. Debra Gould, Member
8. Raven Bell, Member

Absent:

1. Charmaine Sonnier, Member

Staff:

1. John McCrary, CEO
2. Deidra Bradley, Principal
3. Terracenia Rodney, Asst. Principal
4. Brian Richburg, Parent Liaison
5. Beverly Irvin, Teacher
6. Tamara Jones, Para
7. Dana Durio, Teacher
8. Brittany Bolds, Teacher
9. Marietta Simmons, Para
10. Wendy Petty

11. Marlene Wade, CFO
12. Shelby Evans, Teacher
13. Shantinee VanBuren, Social Worker

Others:

14. Arrione Varnado
15. Carly Shaffer
16. Henry Harrison
17. Michael Bruno

Consultants:

1. Willie Zanders, Attorney
2. Roslyn J. Smith, Consultant

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Barbara Crain-Major called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Present were Ms. Crain-Major, Ms. Adams, Ms. Beaco, Ms. Wiley, Ms. Gould, Ms. Bell, and Dr. Wallace. A quorum of members was established using the Zoom platform.

Mr. Zanders shared the COVID-19 meeting protocol.

II. Approval of Agenda

Debra Adams made a motion to accept the Agenda and Debra Gould seconded the motion. The motion to accept the printed agenda was approved by a unanimous vote. Adams, Beaco, Gould, Ms. Wiley, Wallace, Bell, and Crain-Major.

III. Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Gould made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting. Ora Wiley seconded the motion. The vote was six Ayes: Adams, Beaco, Gould, Bell, Wiley and Crain-Major. One Nay vote: Wallace.

A motion for corrections to the January 13, 2021 minutes was made by Ms. Bell and seconded by Ms. Adams. The vote was unanimously approved.

IV. Old Business

1. Updates to AIS Bylaws Process

Mr. Zanders offered a proposal to engage each Standing Committee in the Bylaws review. Recommendations will be due to the Governance committee a week before the May Regular Meeting. Ms. Bell made this a motion and Ms. Wiley seconded it. Votes in favor were Adams, Beaco, Bell, Clay, Gould, Wallace, Wiley, and Crain-Major. (This was not on the agenda for a vote)

2. Strategic Planning Session (Board Retreat)

President Crain-Major suggested that AIS needed a full day for Strategic Planning, more than the ½ day Board Retreat previously discussed. The Board needs to come out with a product. An outside facilitator would be needed so that all members could be fully engaged. Input from the current school leaders is needed.

Consultant Smith was charged with creating a document to highlight school history.

Ms. Gould emphasized relationship building.

The Strategic Planning/Retreat would have a quorum and must abide by Open Meetings Law, regardless to the setting.

3. Policy and Procedures Regarding Gifts, Donations And Sponsorships (2nd Reading)

President Crain-Major read the policy into the record. Ms. Beaco made a motion to accept the policy and Ms. Wiley seconded it. Voting for the policy was unanimous.

V. New Business

1. Ratification of Executive Assistant (to the CEO) Position

TRSL Retired/Rehire rules created an exception for the hiring of Ms. Cheryllyn Branche that requires an adjustment to the wording of her contract. The change will be edited by Dr. Smith and sent to Mr. Zanders for review before resigning occurs. The motion was made by Ms. Adams and seconded by Ms. Wiley. Adams, Bell, Beaco, Clay, Gould, Wiley, and Crain-

Major made votes for the ratification. Dr. Wallace voted against the ratification. The majority ruled.

2. Resolution for the AIS President of the Board of Directors to enter a 3-year Charter Renewal Agreement with the NOLA-PS

Ms. Beaco made a motion to approve the Resolution and Ms. Adams seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. This. Dr. Smith read the Resolution into the record following the Executive Session.

3. Ratification of a supplemental service agreement with CMC Mechanical Engineers

A \$40K supplement to the CMC contract is needed through the end of the year. Ms. Beaco made a motion to add a supplement to the current contract and Mr. Clay seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously.

4. Edit to Advocates For Innovative Schools, Inc. Credit Card Policy

An edit to the Credit Card Police was needed to remove the “Business Manager” term from the wording. The motion was made by Ms. Bell and seconded by Ms. Gould. The vote for acceptance was unanimous.

VI. Administrative Reports

1. Chief Executive Officer Report

CEO John McCrary used a PowerPoint presentation to share Owl Wins including connections between Finance, Operations and Academics, Increased parental involvement through grade level meetings, a weekly Live Owl’s Talk, Collective accountability and embedded Board participation. He discussed ESSER 3 funding that can be used for a summer program. Plans will involve parents and community.

2. Executive Assistant to CEO Report

Ms. Branche discussed the Trane and CMC collaboration and working together to resolve issues. We do not have a signed agreement with Trane. Constant collaboration with OPSB continues. Background checks have been submitted for all employees. An iDashboard program is in review.

Dr. Wallace offered a requirement that all reports be sent to Board members 2 days before voting. However, the item was not on the agenda. Dr. Wallace made a motion to add an item to the agenda. Ms. Gould seconded the motion. Adams, Beaco, Clay and Crain-Major cast “No” votes. “Yes” votes came from Bell, Wallace, and Gould. A vote to add the item failed to pass.

2. Principal’s Report

Principal Deidra Bradley reported on grade level parent meetings, personalized instruction, power school, social emotional learning and parent engagement. Moton on the Move is a Healthy lifestyles initiative. More than 50% of the staff is fully inoculated for COVID-19. LEAP Testing Readiness is

going on for testing to begin in May. She also reported on the Spring Fest with special activities (COVID-19 safety) and an Easter Parade for the students.

3. Chief Finance Officer Report
Marlene Wade presented a detailed report that was sent to all Board members electronically. Details about the use of federal funds were shared. Cheryl Beaco made a motion to accept the Financial Statements and accept the Reports – Federal and State. Ms. Adams seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously.

VII. Standing Committee Reports

- a. Academic
Debra Adams, Chair made a report concerning LEAP preparations. There was no report from the Academic Committee.
- b. Facility
Terry Clay, Chair noted there was no report from the Facility Committee.
- c. Finance
Ora Wiley, Chair noted there was no report from the Finance Committee. The Committee participated in an excellent Professional Development presentation by Kathleen Phalen from OPSB.
- d. Governance
Louvinia Wallace, Chair, gave a written report from the committee. A motion to accept the minutes from the Governance Committee was made by Dr. Wallace and seconded by Ms. Gould. Adams, Beaco, Gould, Wallace, Wiley and Crain-Major passed the vote. Ms. Bell and Mr. Clay were not recorded.

VIII. Executive Session

Ms. Adams made a motion to enter Executive session at 8:19 p.m. Ms. Beaco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

1. Personnel
Roslyn J. Smith, Consultant, presented Personnel Actions (Hires and/or Changes) with two resignations and a new hire.
2. Legal
Willie Zanders, Attorney, suggested that the CEO recommend no action be taken concerning Employee A for 5 working days to allow legal concerns to be addressed before any administrative action occurs.

Cheryl Beaco made a motion to end Executive Session at 8:43 p.m. Terry Clay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Cheryl Beaco made a motion to accept the Personnel Actions Report and Debra Adams seconded it. Votes for the motion came from Adams, Beaco Bell, Clay, Gould, Wiley, and Crain-Major. Dr. Wallace abstained.

Ms. Beaco made a motion to accept the Recommendation for Employee A and Mr. Clay seconded it. Voting for the motion were: Beaco, Bell, Clay, Gould, Wiley and Crain-Major. Abstaining votes were Adams and Wallace. The motion carried.

XI. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Debra Adams at 7:17 p.m. Debra Gould seconded the motion. The acceptance was unanimous.

Secretary

Date