

La Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School
Board Meeting
August 26th, 2015
Community Education Building

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 pm.

- I Approval of Agenda-Motion to approve agenda made by Maria Matos, seconded by Tom Peters. Agenda was approved unanimously with no abstentions.
- II Approval of July Minutes-Motion to approve July minutes made by Tom Peters, seconded by Brian Fahey, approved unanimously with no abstentions.
- III Public Comment
 - i. Ms. McMillan-Williams expresses a concern about the timing of lunch periods and would like for the children to be able to have a snack during the afternoon. Additionally, she expressed a concern about the availability of parking for parents and believes that there is currently insufficient parking for parent.
 - ii. Mr. Clark expressed several concerns about transportation.
 - a. The bus schedule has been problematic. Some buses are late.
 - b. Mr. Clark expressed a concern about the school relying on voicemail for communication. He suggested that using text messages would be more effective.
 - iii. Kathleen Llewelyn expressed concerns about the following:
 - a. Bus stops are too far away from some residences.
 - b. Is there a way to go back to having the half days on Fridays instead of Wednesdays?
 - c. Siblings who come to pick up a younger sibling are turned away if they do not have proper ID.
 - d. Robo calls concerning changes in bus schedule should happen sooner.
 - iv. Amy Metzger-Regarding communication, parents need more advance notice for items such as start times and other details. Also, records of children from last year need to be reviewed and verified.
 - v. Ms. Richardson said that her daughter has an allergy and asked for a drink of water after having been bothered by the allergy, but was not allowed by the teacher to get a drink. Also, she has requested to meet her child's teacher, but has not gotten a response.
 - vi. Ms. Hendrickson asked about the availability of a menu to send home to parents.
 - vii. Ms. Rodriguez encouraged the school to exhort the bus drivers to show more courtesy and respect towards parents.
 - viii. Motion made by Tom Peters to adjourn the Public Comment period, seconded by Brian Fahey. Motion approved unanimously with no abstentions.

IV Head of School Report

- i. Mr. Phelps thanked the parents for coming to the meeting.
- ii. The school is currently fully enrolled, at 327 students. There is a waiting list in first grade.
- iii. September 10th is an open house activity, La Academia Stars Night, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. This is for current families and prospective families.
- iv. Classroom teachers attended respective Expeditionary Learning Institutes.
- v. Mr. Phelps gave an update on current staffing. All lead positions have been filled with high quality teachers and the school is finalizing para-professional positions.
- vi. The school is working on several strategies to improve communication processes with parents.
- vii. All efforts are being made to ensure the reliability of buses and the security/safety of students who ride the buses.

V Committee Reports

Finance

- i. Review of July Financial Reporting Package. Motion was made by Maria Matos to approve the July Reporting Package, seconded by Mónica Ruiz Melendez. The package was approved unanimously with no abstentions.
- ii. Update on audit

Governance

- i. The code of conduct for students is being developed by the committee and Mark Phelps.

Marketing

- i. Anything that needs to be posted should be sent to Veronica Vasko, the web admin.
- ii. Several events at the school have gone well. Teachers and administration have been very helpful in making these events a success.
- iii. We are still actively recruiting families to the school.
- iv. Maria Matos commended Veronica Vasko for all of the work that she has done since joining the Board.
- v. The Delaware Latino Summit will be held at the Chase Center on October 22nd, 2015.

Academic

- i. The Committee is currently working on establishing the parameters of its work. The initial efforts have been aided by Mark Phelps, who is providing background on the curriculum of the school.
- ii. There is an English Language Arts and Spanish Language Arts curriculum.

- iii. Curriculum maps are in place for English Language Arts and are being developed for Spanish Language Arts.
- iv. RTI protocols are being implemented.

VI CMO Report

- i. The CMO reported on the efforts that have been made in support of the school in the areas of Educational Model, Leadership Support, Business Services, Enrollment and Human Resources. Areas of growth and next steps were indicated in each of those categories.
- ii. The school finished last year exceeding the Expeditionary Learning goals for a first year school, performing at the level of a second year school.
- iii. Significant efforts have been made in helping Mark Phelps make a smooth transition to the role of school leader.
- iv. Luz-Elena Garcilazo thanked Teresa for all of her efforts in leading the school last year and helping us this year with the transition to a new school leader.

VII Old Business-There was no old business

VIII New Business

- i. Mónica Ruiz Melendez suggested that the school make efforts to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. She has contacted a group to come and perform at the school.
- ii. Ms. Melendez proposed other ideas, as well, to help us capitalize on our strengths as an EL and dual-language school.
- iii. Maria Matos made a motion to have the school consider the proposal to host a performance on September 11th in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. During discussion, Tom Peters cautioned the school to carefully consider the amount of time needed for teachers and students to prepare for testing that will happen this fall. The motion was passed unanimously with no abstentions.

IX Executive Session-Maria Matos made a motion to move to executive session, seconded by Tom Peters. The Board moved to executive session at 7:10 pm.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:01 pm.

Motion to come out of executive session was made by Tom Peters, seconded by Brian Fahey. The Board came out of executive session at 8:01 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Tom Peters, seconded by Maria Matos. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

