



Achievement House Cyber Charter School Board of Trustees

Public Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2020

The Executive Session commenced at 6:00 p.m. and continued until approximately 7:00 p.m.

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call
 - Mrs. Marilou Strangarity (President)
 - Mrs. Lisabeth Sweeney (Vice President)
 - Mrs. Kristin Chettle (Treasurer)
 - Mr. Don Fraatz (Secretary)
 - Dr. Bob Maranto
 - Des Pringle
- III. Marilou Strangarity congratulated the AHCCS staff on reaching 725 students and it was celebrated with a Nothing But Bundt cake.
- IV. Notification of Recording
 - A. Marilou Strangarity announced that the Public Session would be recorded on an audio device.
- V. Executive Session Statement
 - A. M. Strangarity announced that the Executive Session was held to discuss personnel and finances.
- VI. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2019 board meeting.
 1. Motion to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2019 board meeting by Kristin Chettle. Seconded by Don Fraatz. Unanimous.
- VII. Governance
 - A. M. Strangarity stated that the Board met from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. today for Act 55 Board Professional Development Training.
 - B. Don Aspen stated that per their conversation in the private session they are going to table the School Club Policy because more clarification is needed.
 - C. D. Aspen introduced a new employee benefit. He requested a motion that the Board pass a new employee benefit for reimbursement of an invoice proving the creation of an estate plan by an employee. The maximum reimbursement is \$250 for single and \$450 for family.
 1. Motion to approve the new employee benefit by Don Fraatz. Seconded by Kristin Chettle. Unanimous.
 - D. D. Asplen requested a motion for the approval of a CD Investment Plan. Ryan Schumm explained that we have a bank that is willing to offer 1.85% on 12- and 18-month CD's and 1.8% on a 6-month CD so that we could stagger those and have a tiered plan and always have \$250,000 maturing every 6 months. There would be \$1,000,000 total in 4 different CD's. R. Schumm noted that this is the lowest risk investment that we can make.
 1. Motion to approve CD Investment Plan with an investment up to \$1,000,000 with rates no lower than 1.8% by L. Sweeney. Seconded by D. Fraatz. Unanimous.

- E. D. Asplen explained that we have a credit line and in order to give the bank a reason to renew it in August, he has asked R. Schumm to borrow \$100,000 from it and then pay it back in one month. Sometimes if you do not use a credit line, they will not renew it.

VIII. Personnel

A. Resignation:

- 1. Jen Vargas, Lead IT Coordinator

B. Promotion:

- 1. Kevin Smochko, IT Coordinator, \$38,000

C. Transfer:

- 1. Rob Botes, Temporary Help Desk Technician, \$42,000

- D. Motion to accept the resignation of Jen Vargas and to approve the promotion of Kevin Smochko and the transfer of Rob Botes by Lisabeth Sweeney. Seconded by D. Fraatz. Unanimous.

IX. Finance/Business Report

- A. Ryan Schumm provided the monthly Treasurer's Report.

- B. R. Schumm gave a short summary and stated that this report captures 50% of the fiscal year.

- 1. The revenue side is favorable.
- 2. It is a great time of the year for budget revising and we are in the preliminary stage of next year's 2020-2021 budget.
- 3. The budget revision will be favorable because of the high student enrollment.
- 4. School district tuition rates have increased more than budgeted which was a nice surprise.

- C. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the written Treasurer's Report.

- 1. Motion to approve the written Treasurer's Report by D. Fraatz. Seconded by D. Pringle. Unanimous.

X. Discussion of Academic/SPED Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Academic/SPED video Report.

- B. N. Thomas reported that it is mid-year, and everything is going very well right now. He also shared that he will be presenting at the PLearn Conference to be held on March 11-13, 2020 in Atlantic City. This 3-day event will feature nationally known speakers who are experts in the field of personalized learning and educational leadership.

XI. Discussion Enrollment/Marketing Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Enrollment/ Marketing Video Report.

- B. Alane Butler was happy to report that we now have 725 students and noted that we usually peak in April and hopes to see the number keep rising. M. Strangarity thanked Alane and the staff for doing such a great job.

XII. Discussion HR Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the HR Video Report and there were none.

XIII. Discussion of Guidance Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Guidance Video Report and there were none.

XIV. Discussion CEO Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the CEO Video Report.

- B. D. Asplen updated the Board on the House Education Committee hearing on cyber funding which took place yesterday regarding Curt Sonney's Bill 1897. He said that you could see that the school districts lacked in knowledge and that really helped to make our case for us.

- C. D. Aspen shared that we have been working with a gentleman named Dr. John Wingerter for two years. Mr. Wingerter started out as a Mentor and now he is currently a Curriculum Consultant. And because of these positions he has had the opportunity to work with a lot of different teachers. D. Asplen explained that he periodically stops in on some of his meetings and on a recent occasion Mr. Wingerter, in a very genuine and heartwarming way, told him that we have a lot of good teachers here which makes for a great teaching staff.

XV. New Business

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there was any new business.
- B. D. Asplen welcomed and proudly announced our Innovation Academy Program Director, Darryl Perecko, who is in the process of revamping our Innovation Academy Program. D. Perecko and his team have put together a 5-year plan and will be sharing part 1 of a 2-part presentation with the Board tonight. D. Asplen also noted that they outgrew their current workspace and are in the process of moving to a much larger one. At the next meeting they will get to see the new space and the IA team will have some projects for them to complete.
- C. D. Perecko noted that he and his team have been working on revitalizing the Innovation Academy Program for six months. He gave credit to his team for all the hard work that they put into it and then introduced his team:
 - 1. Nicole Renninger
 - 2. Katie Mastauskas
 - 3. Carmela Curatola
- D. D. Perecko shared a PowerPoint presentation and a handout with everyone and explained how the new program will work. Some discussion followed.
 - 1. M. Strangarity suggested that we come up with an internship type environment to show the students that they can really go somewhere if they take Innovation Academy courses.
 - 2. M. Strangarity also asked if we could have Kevin Smochko put together a three-minute synopsis bio telling how he got where he is that gets put at the beginning of these classes and shows the other kids that this is possible.
 - 3. L. Sweeney stated that she loves Innovation Academy and is happy that these courses will be offered to everyone. She was appreciative that the team is mission driven and thanked them for their hard work.
- E. D. Asplen noted that National School Choice Week is next week and every year we attend at least one location. This year we will be attending the one held in Allentown on Tuesday, January 28th. As of now there are 1500 people signed up to attend. Don was pleased to say that the Coalition got a call from the White house stating that either President Trump, Vice President Pence or Education Secretary DeVos would be attending.

XVI. Public Comment

- A. Bruce Williamson noted that if Keven Smochko turns out to be good at cyber security, we might want to bring him back.
- B. B. Williamson asked them when they are talking about investing is it always banks, or do you also look at credit unions as viable options? R. Schumm responded that they look at many financial institutions including credit unions.
- C. B. Williamson noted that the one of the stairways he uses in the building has a sign that says No Access to the Roof, but he found that the other stairway that we do use does have access to the roof. And since he can't find anybody anywhere who has dropped a penny and a baseball from five stories, he would like to try it himself. He is trying to get permission to go up on the roof and get someone to help him videotape

it because at that height he thinks they should hit simultaneously. D. Aspen replied that he would check with the landlord.

- D. Erinn Bean noted that the Board talked about the school calendar in the private session and ask them if they could tell her the start and end date of the next calendar year. D. Asplen responded that the start date will be August 31, 2020 and the end date will be June 9, 2021.
- E. M. Strangarity asked for a motion to approve the opening and closing dates for the school year as stated above.
 - 1. Motion to approve the opening and closing dates for the school year as stated above by L. Sweeney. Seconded by K. Chettle. Unanimous.

XVII. Adjournment

- A. M. Strangarity called for a motion to adjourn the public board meeting. Our next meeting will be February 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
 - 1. Motion to adjourn the public meeting by Don Fraatz. Seconded by D. Pringle. Unanimous.