



## **Achievement House Cyber Charter School Board of Trustees**

Public Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

The Executive Session commenced at 6:00 p.m. and continued until approximately 7:15 p.m.

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call
  - Mrs. Marilou Strangarity (President)
  - Mrs. Kristin Chettle (Treasurer)
  - Mr. Don Fraatz (Secretary)
  - Dr. Bob Maranto
  - Mr. Desmondé Pringle
- III. Notification of Recording
  - A. Marilou Strangarity announced that the Public Session would be recorded on an audio device.
- IV. Executive Session Statement
  - A. M. Strangarity stated that the Executive Session was held to discuss personnel, financial and legal matters.
- V. Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2020 Board Meeting
  - A. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2020 board meeting.
    1. Motion to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2020 board meeting by Bob Maranto. Seconded by Des Pringle. Unanimous.
- VI. Discussion of Academic Video Report
  - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Academic Video Report.
    1. Neal Thomas gave the board some updates. He really enjoyed working with the CTM's this year and thought it went really well. We made great strides in everything we worked on. We will have another full-time person coming in next year to help us.
    2. N. Thomas stated he has been working on teacher evaluations for the last month and for the ESSA scores 36 out of 40 were Effective, which is very good.
    3. N. Thomas mentioned his equity program and shared that the teachers did a self-assessment survey in the fall in regard to culturally responsive curriculum and we scored well in 2 out of 3 categories. He said they worked on improving in this area this year and will continue to focus on this next year. He was glad that both he and Declan have the same mind set when it comes to equity of education.
    4. Bob Maranto asked N. Thomas about the teacher observations and Neal explained the process.
- VII. Discussion of Enrollment/Marketing Video Report
  - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Enrollment/ Marketing Video Report.
    1. Alane Butler shared that we launched our Summer Camp program and was happy to report that we already had 15 campers signed up for multiple camp sessions. The camps will run from June through August.
    2. In A. Butler's report she highlighted our social media endeavors so today she brought a guest, Julia Debald, our social media maven and Parent Engagement Coordinator, to explain to the board how she has been highlighting the graduating students every day for the last few weeks.
    3. Julia Debald explained the Student Spotlight as a whole and shared some pictures with the board and noted that every student that she talked to mentioned the staff in a positive way. Because of COVID-19 and the lack of a live graduation, the teachers went out of their way to make sure that this year's senior class felt special. A lot of the teachers participated

in nominating seniors for the Student Spotlight and in the end, we had 17 seniors that we spotlighted over a two-week period. J. Debald said that this was so successful that she was going to continue this every year.

4. M. Strangarity commented that she loves the personalization that our staff gives to the students and their families. She thanked J. Debald for the great job.

VIII. Discussion HR Video Report

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

1. Bob Worn had a few words to say about J. Debald and what a pleasure it was to work with her. He also noted that she does a great job with the Parent and Teacher Organization.

2. B. Worn talked about the continuity of teachers. This year we have all of our teacher positions filled at the beginning of the school year and this is a tremendous plus. We had six employee referrals this past year and we hired two of them. Nice to know that the teachers are happy here and they are referring their friends to us. He also noted that we are having a lot of good interviews because we are getting better at the interview process.

IX. Discussion of Guidance Video Report

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

1. Kris Botes noted that we are getting ready for summer school and we have 165 students signed up so far. Almost twice as many as last year. K. Botes said that our end goal is for students to need fewer credits as seniors.

X. Finance/Business Report

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

1. R. Schumm gave a summary of the May 2020 Financial Report. There are 14 days left in the fiscal year and for the cash we have about 246 days on hand for the end of May which is a strong position. One of our four CD's matured but had a very unattractive interest renewal rate that we declined so we are looking for a better option. We also moved a quarter million from Centric over to WFSF to spread out our FDIC risk.

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

1. Motion to approve the written Treasurer's Report by Kristen Chettle. Seconded by B. Maranto. All eyes from the remaining board members. Unanimous.

XI. Discussion CEO Video Report

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

1. D. Asplen shared that he wanted to publicly express a healthy dose of gratitude for the staff that we find ourselves surrounded by and the really healthy discussion that they had earlier this month and the board that he is surrounded by and the really healthy discussion they had tonight. He doesn't remember a time in history where there have been two reflection points this big in our lives. But to know that we are surrounded by people that can process it, that can think about it, that can talk about it, that can express fears and frustrations and do so in a kind and supportive way must be rare and so he is really thankful and blessed for who he is surrounded by.

XII. Governance

A. D. Asplen said that Amanda Maraz updated our ELD Policy and stated we need a motion for a resolution to pass the updated ELD Policy.

1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to pass the updated ELD Policy.

a) Motion to pass the updated ELD Policy by Don Fraatz. Seconded by K. Chettle. All eyes from the remaining board members. Unanimous.

B. D Asplen stated that we need a reaffirmation of our current Bullying Policy.

1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to reaffirm our Bullying Policy.

a) Motion to reaffirm the Bullying Policy by D. Pringle. Seconded by D. Fraatz. All eyes from remaining board members. Unanimous.

C. D. Asplen stated we are looking for a resolution to pass the Draft 2020-2021 Budget.

1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to pass the Draft 2020-2021 Budget.

a) Motion to pass the Draft 2020-2021 Budget by K. Chettle. Seconded by D. Pringle. All eyes from remaining board members. Unanimous.

XIII. Personnel

A. New Hires:

1. Becky Kenzakowski, Summer ESY, 5 weeks/5 hrs. Per day, \$25/hour
2. Colin Mayson, English Teacher, \$46,000
3. Crystal Hegarty, Special Ed Teacher, \$52,500

B. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the aforementioned new hires at the salaries/rates specified.

1. Motion to approve the aforementioned new hires at the salaries/rates specified by D. Pringle. Seconded by B. Maranto. All ayes from remaining board members. Unanimous.

XIV. New Business

A. M. Strangarity asked if there was any new business, but there was none.

XV. Public Comment

A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any public comments.

1. N. Thomas shared that he heard today that Garnet Valley was not planning on having students and staff return to the school building until January. Waiting to see if other schools do the same.
2. D. Asplen asked for some clarity from Brian Leinhauser in regard to the legislature that is trying to overrule the Governor. B. Leinhauser stated that the Emergency Act that the Governor has issued his emergency orders under was a statute that provides that after 90 days the Governor either has to declare that the emergency order is extended but it also has a provision that the legislature may end the provisions of power of the Governor under that act if they pass a conforming resolution. The legislature acted and they voted to end the emergency action of the Governor last week. The dispute between the parties is, does the Governor have to sign it or not. Is it a law and therefore it follows the rules that govern laws or is it this other thing and follows different rules where it becomes effective upon the vote? The real dispute is the legislature, although it is a bipartisan vote, isn't sure whether they can overcome a veto. If they send it to the Governor and he veto's it and 2/3rds of the representatives can't vote in favor of it and then what do they do. So they have taken the position on the legislative side that they have ended the Governor's emergency authority and the Governor is taking them to court and saying no, they had to send it to my office in order for me take action on it and give me the write to veto it or not. It's a new issue that has not gone through the Commonwealth Court before. The overwhelming pressure around the state is to reopen knowing the risks that COVID-19 creates. He is not sure what the Commonwealth Court will do but he suspects that this will get litigated to the Supreme Court of PA since it deals with executive power in a time of emergency.
3. Erinn Bean wanted to thank the board and the administrators on behalf of herself and all of the staff for their gifts through this time and let them know how much they have been a blessing to us. Their support and financial support have been super helpful for all of us. She knows that a lot of us are going through a lot mentally at home and she just wanted them to know It's been great to be a part of such a flexible and open environment. The conversation that we had during post service about the recent events was empowering and enlightening. She was thankful to be a part of this.
4. M. Strangarity thanked Erinn for taking the time to share that and commented that other people had sent them thank you messages as well. M. Strangarity then personally thanked D. Asplen and N. Thomas because these are brand new waters that we are in and thinks they are doing a marvelous job. She feels that we need to find a place of unity, of love, of honor, and respect for each other. If ever there was a time and a need for that, it is now. She thanked everyone for extending grace to her and thanked them for attending the meeting tonight. She also wanted to let everyone know that she is thankful for the way our staff reaches out to our families and students and avail themselves and appreciates the way that we have cooperated during this very difficult time.
5. D. Asplen thanked E. Bean for not only usually being the first, but for also frequently appreciating others and demonstrating that appreciation. It is always nice to know if you are impacting the staff.

6. Des Pringle thanked D. Asplen for facilitating the conversation they had regarding the social issues that the country is currently confronting. He is aware that this is a somewhat uncomfortable and difficult conversation to have but this speaks volumes that we were able to collectively as a board to have an honest and open conversation regarding the same. It speaks volumes as a collective body, but most importantly it speaks volumes to D. Asplen as the Chief Executive of this body and the fact that he chose to bring this to the floor. And for that, he is very thankful and grateful to him. The journey of 10,000 miles begins with a single step and we have just taken the first step and there are other steps that he is confident as we move forward that will make us an even better and greater collective body.

XVI. Adjournment

A. M. Strangarity called for a motion to adjourn the public board meeting. Our next meeting will be July 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

1. Motion to adjourn the public meeting by D. Pringle. Seconded by K. Chettle.  
Unanimous.