



Achievement House Cyber Charter School Board of Trustees

Public Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 16, 2024

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 (President) – Present
 - Dr. Lisabeth Sweeney (Vice President) – Present
 - Mrs. Kristin Chettle (Treasurer) – Present
 - Mr. Don Fraatz (Secretary) – Present
 - Dr. Bob Maranto – Present
- 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 announced that the Board held an Executive Session this evening to discuss personnel matters, financial matters and legal issues.
- V. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2023 Board meeting.
 1. Motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2023 Board meeting by Bob Maranto. Seconded by Kristin Chettle. Unanimous.
- VI. Personnel
 - A. New Hires:
 1. Michelle Hapich, Data Visualization Analyst
 - B. Separations:
 1. Taylor Richardson
 - C. Open Positions:
 1. SAIC Intervention Facilitators
 2. Student Mentors
 3. Student Success Coach (Western, PA)
 4. HR Assistant
 5. ICA Teacher
 6. Bilingual Special Education Teacher
 7. AHoPE Educational Equity (Stipend Role)
 - D. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the new hires and separations listed above with salaries as discussed in the Executive Session.
 1. Motion to approve the new hires and separations as listed above with salaries as discussed in the Executive Session by K. Chettle. Seconded by Lisabeth Sweeney. Unanimous
- VII. Finance/Business Report
 - A. Ryan Schumm provided a summary of the monthly Treasurer's Report and highlighted some of the items in the report.
 - B. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the written Treasurer's Report.
 1. Motion to approve the written Treasurer's Report by Don Fraatz. Seconded by K. Chettle. Unanimous.
- VIII. Governance
 - A. We received this year's Ethics Forms and they will be mailed to the board members for completion.
 - B. D. Asplen explained our updated Plagiarism Policy.
 1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the updated Plagiarism Policy.
 - a. Motion to approve the updated Plagiarism Policy by B. Maranto. Seconded by K. Chettle. Unanimous.

- C. Updated FMLA Policy
 - 1. M. Strangarity called for a motion to authorize Brian Leinheiser to modify the FMLA Policy with the Board's directive as discussed in the Executive Session. The Board will approve the modified language at the next meeting, but the modification will take effect immediately.
 - a. Motion to authorize Brian Leinheiser to modify the FMLA Policy with the Board's directive as discussed in the Executive Session by L. Sweeney. Seconded by K. Chettle.
- D. Global Explorers Presentation
 - 1. Katie Bonesteel shared that Gerri Light provided her the opportunity to connect with one of the schools she works with in Tanzania, Africa, as part of her Global Explorers class, which she co-teaches with Adam Folk. Throughout the school year, they have been striving to foster collaboration between the two schools, focusing on enhancing cultural awareness and technology skills. She shared a presentation featuring a welcome video and pictures from Tanzania.
- IX. B. Maranto left the meeting at 7:35 pm.
- X. Discussion of Academic Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Academic Video Report.
 - B. Neal Thomas thanked everyone who was involved in reviewing the Plagiarism Policy: Angela Alderfer, Gerri Light, Shannon Gottschalk, and the Early Adopters Team.
 - C. L. Sweeney shared her thoughts on dual enrollment. Dual enrollment is now very popular and practical because it allows students to earn transferable college credits while they are in high school. We do have some dual enrollment classes at AHCCS, and she encouraged us to add more colleges. Some discussion followed.
 - D. M. Strangarity asked that we start looking into partnering with three or four more colleges for next year.
 - E. M. Strangarity suggested exploring the possibility of incorporating an international component into our summer school offerings. G. Light mentioned the potential to collaborate with schools in countries beyond Tanzania.
- XI. Discussion of Special Education Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Special Education Video Report.
 - B. Trina Knauff provided an update to the Board and highlighted Faith Maben, a Special Education Teacher, for establishing a life skills collaboration group with other cyber schools across Pennsylvania. The first meeting was attended by representatives from five other cyber schools. She thanked F. Maben for taking the initiative to start this group.
 - C. T. Knauff shared an inspiring story about a student who recently enrolled at AHCCS who hadn't felt supported by his prior school district. The mom told our staff that her son was so happy after she read his first IEP to him because he finally felt supported and that our school was going to provide him with what he needed.
- XII. Discussion of Guidance Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Guidance Video Report.
 - B. Angela Galie provided an update on our Dual Enrollment Program. We will be meeting with Montgomery County Community College this week and are also looking into moving into the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas.
 - C. A. Galie stated that she, Kris Botes and Morgan Fountain are creating an asynchronous College 101 course to help prepare our students for college.
- XIII. Discussion Curriculum Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Curriculum Video Report and there were none.
 - B. Jodi Byrne did not have any updates for the Board.
- XIV. 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 provided the Board with the latest information on our student enrollment figures.

- C. Additionally, A. Butler highlighted in her report several technology tools being introduced to her department to better support students. She illustrated this with an example involving Eva Thierry, a Student Launch Pad Facilitator, who successfully introduced closed captioning to assist a new deaf student. As a result, the student was able to fully participate in regular orientation sessions alongside the other students, gaining independence without the need for an interpreter.
- XV. Discussion HR Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the HR Video Report and there were none.
 - B. Stefani Frank did not have any updates for the Board.
- XVI. Discussion CEO Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the CEO Video Report.
 - B. D. Asplen noted that we have been encouraging our staff for years to attend conferences, be a lifelong learner and be the best they can be at whatever their job is. He was proud to say that we have 18 people attending the Pete&C Conference this year and a lot of them are signed up because they are on an artificial intelligence track.
 - C. D. Asplen asked Mike Kass, our Transition Teacher for Special Education, to talk about the difference his efforts are making with transitions and career planning for our kids. M. Kass said that he is always looking for ways to make an impact and talked about our carpentry class. D. Asplen thanked him for all his efforts and for doing such a great job.
- XVII. New Business
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there was any new business, and there was none.
- XVIII. Public Comment
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any public comments.
 - B. M. Kass shared that on January 24th, we have a former student who graduated two years ago who will talk at Future Ready about how she is doing in her career as a successful cosmetologist in Philadelphia.
 - C. N. Thomas congratulated Angela Alderfer for finishing her Supervision Principal Certification.
 - A. Alderfer thanked everyone for their support.
 - D. D. Asplen thanked everyone who joined the meeting tonight. It's always nice to see new people attend.
- XIX. Adjournment
 - A. M. Strangarity moved to adjourn the public Board meeting at 8:30 p.m. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
 - 1. Motion to adjourn the public meeting by D. Fraatz. Seconded by K. Chettle. Unanimous.