

American Renaissance School Board of Directors Meeting September 4, 2019 5:30pm

Mission:

To ensure a standard of academic excellence by providing a nurturing environment that allows each child to reach their fullest potential as students and citizens.

Board Members in Attendance: Tracy Sain, Danny Carpenter, Caity Gordon, Tori Cearlock, Frank DiGangi, Jonathan Bell, Kameron Brown

Board Members Not Present: Raphael Weeks, Michele Knapp

Administrative Staff Present: Jim Duffey, Jessica Duncan, Andrea Leluika, Tai McMiller, Danielle Cusick, John Mairs

Call to Order

Kameron Brown

Called to order at 5:32pm.

Approval of Agenda

Kameron Brown

Tracy motion to accept, Jonathan seconded.

Recognition

Administration

- Tyler and Katie Davis - landscaping, volunteer hours
 - New ARS parents. Put in a lot of hours to volunteer landscaping (\$100's worth of work). Initiative to coordinate more volunteers.
- Sheena Worley - landscaping
 - Donated a lot of time to landscaping and fixing up the flower beds on both campuses.
- Yearbook Staff
 - Plaque for "Program of Excellence" (met all three criteria for the award, including featuring students at least 3 times, and minimum yearbook sales)
- 5K Scholarship Committee - Todd
 - 5 judges with different perspectives: Kam Brown, Anna Bell, Salem [] (alumnus, currently at Georgia South); Thomas Williams (alumnus, Eagle Scout); Jennifer [] (former peace corps volunteer).
 - Read essays and determined the winners of the scholarship and prizes.
 - Team effort
- 2018-2019 ARS Staff and Students- EOG
 - Celebrated being "on a roll" by bringing in cinnamon rolls
 - Increased proficiency grade within B range, exceeded growth for second year in a row.
- Danielle Cusick
 - Stepped up and filled the hybrid EC role.

Approval of Minutes

Kam Brown

Tracy moved to approve minutes. Tori seconded.

Public Comments

- EC Parent
 - Thanking board, staff, Jim, Jessica, Danielle, for EC improvements.
 - Met new staff and received handbook from Danielle.

Committee Reports

- Governance
 - Will meet soon.
- Personnel
 - EC Position - closed session
- Finance
 - Monthly Financial Statements
 - Some items from this fiscal year were miscoded for the previous year.
 - Surplus is now \$16,037.70
 - *Jonathan moved to approve accepting this surplus into the account. Danny seconded. Motion passed.*
 - July 2019 - always shows a deficit
 - Currently deficit of (\$104,650.67)
 - Frank and Jim monitoring certain code categories and MyPaymentsPlus
 - *Jonathan moved to approve July financial report. Tracy seconded motion.*
 - All good with fraud protection.
 - Addressing issues from last meeting
 - Debt service overage was a prepay for July.
 - Significant salary overage from substitutes. Jim to meet with committee to discuss solutions.
 - After school care overage resulted from an increase in use of the program. Also resulted in more revenue.
 - EC PT folks
- Fundraising
 - RAP Report - moved to end (waiting for Shannon)
- Facilities
 - Closed session - contract negotiations

School Reports

Schoolwide - Sub Training (Sept 10) - changes

- Reviews safety procedures and school policies.
- Adding an electronic process outside of onsite training.
- Doing a background (re)check on every sub this year.
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Elementary - BTSP Monitoring Visit September 18 (Jessica)

- Helps evaluate everything before actual audit in October.

Middle- School-wide PDP Goal, Town Hall, Parent Academy, Student-Led Conferences, Assessing student Social/Emotional Needs - YRBS provided by CDC to determine health related behaviors to guide programming

- School-wide PDP Goal
 - Standard 2 for diversity inclusion
- Town Hall
 - Parents and community members can meet and share ideas.
 - Next one is tomorrow, **September 5 @ 8:15am at Sky Mountain Coffee**
- Frank: Safety Plan update?
 - Dallas was transferred, so now we'll continue the process with another officer.
 - All procedures are currently in place, but need to confirm reconciliation plan.
- Assessing Student Social/Emotional Needs
 - YRBS provided by CDC to determine health related behaviors to guide programming
- Parent Academy
 - Two 1-hour sessions with rotation of:
 - Power School & Canvas App
 - Parent-Teacher Partnership
 - How to support child with homework, time management
 - Behavior Systems - Griffin Grams, level drops, warnings, etc.
 - 2 early colleges will be presenting information to families
- Student-Led Conferences
 - Nov 1, Feb 5 in the Middle School
- Tech - MyPaymentsPlus budget analysis report
 - Tracking how many missing fees are for scholarships, and how many we're pursuing
 - Not going to keep a student from athletics or technology if unpaid, but good to keep track of this information
 - Anonymous sponsorship available on MyPaymentsPlus
 - Tech Fees (John)
 - \$19,500 collected
 - *Jim and Frank to sit down and review numbers.*
- Exceptional Children/ MTSS-Presenting contract with Turning Point for psychological and educational testing for approval
 - Danielle presenting contract for psychological services
 - No cost increase (different company, same price)
 - *Jonathan proposes approve pending legal review. Jonathan will review contract tomorrow. Kameron seconded.*
 - May need to contract someone to assist with speech therapy services, since there are more students in need this year.

Committee Reports (continued)

- Fundraising
 - RAP Report - moved to end (waiting for Shannon)
 - Uniforms
 - 99% positive feedback and interactions
 - July order was around \$7000 profit
 - August order will be smaller
 - Profit will go back to school [?]
 - Discount Cards

- Waitlist is back up over 100
- Already sold the cards, just need to get the cards to hand out to the folks that already purchased.
- First and second turn-ins are both higher than last year.
- Ice Cream Program
 - Started on Friday
 - Currently sponsoring ~25 students
 - Would like to cover Kindergarten students (~13 more students)
- RAP-specific fundraisers help fund their programs throughout the year.
- RAP Fundraising Meetings to take place 1 Friday a month (starts this month)
- Great Wolf Lodge (January 30)
 - Brainstorming ways to offer cheaper rooms to families who can't afford it.
- Continue recognition for teachers, but shift focus to other folks who deserve recognition from the school.
- RAP needs more volunteers!

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Tracy moved to enter closed session. Kam seconded.

Closed Session - negotiated contracts