

American Renaissance School
Meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD)
Open meeting minutes
Wednesday, September 7, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Dated Wednesday, September 7, 2016

1. The Meeting was **Called to Order** at 6:30 pm by Sam Kennington

1. **Board Members Present:** Sam Kennington, Harriette Bailey, Jonathan Bell, Marc Davis, Matt Reyes, Anna Johnson, Michele Knapp

Board Members Absent: Sharon Bell

Administrative Staff Present: Jim Duffey, Tony Hall, Betsy Rosenbalm, Jessica Duncan, John Mairs

Administrative Staff Absent: n/a

Others in Attendance: n/a

2. **Call to Order** – Sam Kennington, Board Chairman

- Moment of Silence
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Open Meeting Laws and Freedom of Information Act
- Marc Davis read the mission of ARS

3. **Public Comment** – Sam Kennington

- Kerry Armstrong
 - offered praise for this year's Open House
 - Thanked Jessica Duncan and other administrators for a job well done

4. **Adoption of Agenda**

- Board chair amended agenda to add special recognition for the 2015-16 Teacher of the Year
- Michele Knapp moved to adopt the agenda with additions, seconded by Jonathan Bell
- Agenda was adopted with revisions

5. **Approval of minutes:** August 3, 2016 Board meetings

- Anna Johnson moved to approve Open session minutes from August 3, 2016
- Motion was seconded by Matt Reyes
- Motion carried – minutes from August 3, 2016 were approved with necessary revisions.

6. **Recognition of 2015-16 Teacher of the Year**

- Presentation made to Mr. Rob Orrill by Mr. Tony Hall

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- Sam Kennington discussed this will be the first year that the ARS will enter the statewide Teacher of the Year process

7. Old Business

- There has not been any additional flooding since the playground renovation. The gravel has been delivered and mulch will be delivered momentarily.
- Flooding issues related to the new property – there was some work completed by ARS administration and volunteers to prevent any future flooding
- Mr. Hall completed the monthly walk through for mold inspection, and all was clear. The mold inspector will monitor on a quarterly basis.

8. New Business

Committee Reports

- **Development**

- **RAP**

- Compiling beginning of school information – parents signed up for committees at Open House
- There will be two (2) money turn-ins for the discount cards. \$8,000 has been collected, with \$15,000 expected from this fundraiser. There is a big push to finish strong. RAP acknowledged that we may have run our course with the discount cards in that we have participated in this fundraiser for the past 6 years.
- RAP and the Development Committee will continue to meet monthly

- **3b**

- The planning is coming along nicely. There is a need for parent volunteers to mow the grounds prior to the 3b Festival. There continues to be a need for additional sponsors and vendors. However, the musical/entertainment lineup looks great.
- There will be the family campout on Friday evening prior to the festival. Festivities will begin on Saturday at 11:45 with the ARS Chorus, then musical acts throughout the afternoon. The wrap-up will be at 6:30 pm.
- Plans include food and hayrides in addition to activities for children. 3b planning committee worked with ARSYAA to avoid scheduling conflicts with athletic events on Saturday.
- There is a suggestion to host a Beer Garden in a roped off area to sell beer/wine. No children will be allowed in the roped off area. School will need to get ABC permit as a 501C. RAP will handle the coordination of the garden. The insurance company needs to be contacted regarding liability of such a venture. BOD Chair voiced personal reservations regarding the beer garden. Beer Garden participants will purchase wristbands. The Wine Maestro will provide the alcohol at cost and all sales above cost will come back to the school.

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- Michele Knapp moved to approve the beer garden, after investigating potential liability issues, with a limit of two purchases per person. Motion was seconded by Jonathan Bell. Motion carried.

- **Grant application update**
 - The applications for three Bright Idea grants are due next week. There are plans to apply for a Dollar General grant and any other outdoor classroom grants
 - ARS received Choosito grants for research
 - Monsanto STEM grant purchased Gizmos for 6-8 science classes
 - Committee wrote letter of support for Iredell Museum grant application as a way of connecting with community partners
 - Committee is looking into ways to connect with the Iredell County Library and the Women's Club

- **Finance**
 - Still waiting on the final end of year report from June 2016
 - July report was provided
 - Waiting on grant and local funding to arrive
 - DPI has released new salary schedule and funding. We need to amend the current budget to reflect the additional income and expenses.
 - Funding allotment
 - Increased per student by \$68.40
 - EC increased \$107.90 per student
 - Total enrollment of 559 (increased funding by \$170-175K)
 - September 14th is the 20th day of school, and the final allotment for the year will be determined at that time
 - All staff has been paid on the new salary scale, beginning with the August 2016 paycheck
 - Jonathan Bell moved to approve the amended budget. Marc Davis seconded. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Hall discussed providing staff with additional retirement options to include Pierce Group (Liberty National/Liberty Mutual) and AXA Financial
 - Jonathan Bell moved to expand retirement options for staff. Michele Knapp seconded. Motion passed.

- **Personnel**
 - The personnel committee is scheduled to meet next week
 - Over the summer, the Executive Committee approved to hire the following staff:
 - Hannah Ellis (2/3)
 - April Beukes (K/1)
 - Emily Keith (4 Sci/SS)
 - Daniel Cusic
 - Todd Fowler

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- Brad Rashley (Band/Chorus)
- Stewart Kincaid (EC/Math)
- Stephanie Hummel (EC)
- Teresa Brown (EC/LA)
- These new hires were presented to the full BOD for approval. Anna Johnson moved to approve the new hires. Marc Davis seconded. Motion carried.
- **Staffing**
 - Mr. Hall recommends:
 - Plan to add part time TAs due to increased student enrollment and increased numbers of students receiving EC services
 - Dr. Rosenbalm is applying for risk pool funding for three (3) students. Most students needing EC services do not qualify for state funds
 - TAs are needed to support teachers and assist with instructional time
- **Governance**
 - The new BOD member, Mr. Frank DiGangi, was recommended. The full BOD approved this appointment. Mr. DiGangi will be contacted by the Governance committee with AY 2016-17 meeting dates.
- **Property and Facilities**
 - Lease holder replaced both air conditioning units
 - Playground – coordinating mulch delivery and spread
 - Classrooms in 6-8 building are complete. HVAC will be reviewed by parent volunteer
 - Traffic Police
 - Parents met with the Chief of Police and City Council and wrote letters to express the need for traffic monitoring during school drop off and pick up. Now, there is police presence to monitor traffic. Police were asked, and agreed to monitor each school building periodically.
 - Custodial Recommendation
 - Current contract of \$62,272. Additional information will be shared during the scheduled personnel committee meeting
 - Tradd Street
 - Budget is not ready for presentation to the BOD
 - Decision needed on what to do with the property before a budget can be developed and submitted
 - Students are utilizing the new grounds
 - Volunteers will assist with mowing and maintaining the sod at cost and maintenance of a purchased mower.
 - Truth Girlz was presented for consideration. This topic will be discussed further at the next BOD meeting.
 - Jim Duffey is to meet with the Masons regarding another afterschool program

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- Possibly consider a boys' program similar to Girls on the Run
- **Head of School**
 - Great start to the school year. Parents and staff are engaged
 - Statesville Theatre has requested the use of the K-5 building for rehearsals. Mr. Hall will develop a Facilities Use Application
 - AIG Program – meeting was well attended.
 - The monthly parent meeting held in August was attended by 64 parents. The September parent meeting will be held in the evening
 - Weekly newsletter will include recognition of parent volunteers. Jessica Duncan and Mr. Hall will recognize staff/parents with “shout-outs”
 - Considering partnering with other schools for personnel (share personnel & share costs). Mr. Hall will present a formal proposal at a future BOD meeting
 - The Hill Center is a great training opportunity for leadership development
 - How do we develop a culture to support the mission and values of ARS?
 - The administrative team will continue to promote parent involvement, which helps improve ARS; need to find ways to thank all of the parent volunteers
- **Board Chair remarks**
 - Find a way to thank and acknowledge staff and parents
 - Mr. Kennington asked that each BOD member sign and submit the Conflict of Interest and Commitment forms
 - Forms will be stored in the Head of School's office, along with BOD materials and policies
 - Thanked the Head of School and staff for the opening of school - A job well done. Congratulations were offered.
 - Need volunteers for Iredell County Fair Parking
 - Gym plans to Anna Johnson

Closed Session (if needed) – Closed session

- Michele Knapp moved to go into closed session
- Matt Reyes seconded the motion

Harriette Bailey moved to increase Data Manager position to 12 months. Seconded by Michele Knapp. Motion carried.

9. Next Meeting and Adjourn –

The next meeting of the board of directors will be on October 5, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the K-5 Building board room.

*Michele Knapp made a motion to adjourn.
The motion was seconded by Marc Davis
The motion carried unanimously.*

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A motion to approve these board minutes is made, seconded and passed.

Approved on: October 5, 2016 Signature of Officer: Harriette Bailey