

**American Renaissance School  
Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Open meeting minutes**

Friday, July 22, 2016

8:30 a.m.

**Dated** Friday July 22, 2016

1. The Meeting was **Called to Order** at 9:00 by Sam Kennington
2. **Board Members Present:** Anna Johnson, Sam Kennington, Michele Knapp, Marc Davis, Harriette Bailey, Sharon Bell, Jonathan Bell

**Board Members Absent:** Matt Reyes

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

**Administrative Staff Absent:** n/a

**Others in Attendance:** Sandy Durham, Kathy Shipman, Kam Brown

3. **Call to Order** – Sam Kennington, Board Chairman
  - Moment of Silence
  - Pledge of Allegiance
  - Open Meeting Laws and Freedom of Information Act
4. **Public Comment** – Sam Kennington
  - No public comments
5. **Item One - Athletic Field, Outdoor Classroom, Garden and Playground** – Anna Johnson, Board Member
  - A full budget and funding plan was requested for these projects
  - Update was given pertaining to grass, irrigation, and asphalt. The ground has already been graded and trees have been removed at a cost of \$12,360. The committee has collected bids for specific time-sensitive items.
  - The Committee recommended Cameron Williams of Green Carpet Landscaping to do grading, sodding and full maintenance for one year. Mr. Williams does not think irrigation is necessary, as he will provide watering as part of his maintenance package.
  - As the board had shared at the last meeting its preference that an irrigation system be put in place, the Committee recommended Armstrong Lawncare for the installation of the irrigation system for \$6,500 plus \$300 for an irrigation pump. This would eliminate the current sewer bill from the city.
  - The committee also discussed the need to remove & replace the asphalt, but has been told that it is suitable to have the grass and irrigation system in place before the asphalt work begins.

**American Renaissance School**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors**

- Mr. Kennington suggested they table discussion of asphalt and any other items related to this project until all of the board is present and just discuss the grass and irrigation at this time.
- Mr. Kennington stated the property needs improvement. He asked if/when the grass was going to be mowed. Mr. Hall agreed to mow the grass the following day. Mr. Kennington asked the Facilities Committee to come up with a plan to get rid of the trees and improve the appearance of the property.
- Ms. Knapp discussed the need to make a decision or plan on the house on Tradd St. She would like to see the house come down and storage built on the property. Mr. George shared that taking down the house will be a rather lengthy process, as asbestos is present. The structure is secure, solid, and usable for storage. He recommends the house remain, but that we mow the grass and add the playground. Jenni Conine asked for the purpose of taking down the house and was told the original plan for this property was to build a multipurpose building/gymnasium.
- Mr. Kennington requested that the board consider the full picture of what is interrupted when other pieces are put in place
- Mr. Hall suggested that we install an irrigation system after the initial 1 year warranty. Ms. Johnson shared her concern that a plan be in place for the grass after the first year to protect the investment.
- Mr. Kennington brought up the funding of the grass/irrigation project, and shared that his understanding was that it would come from development money.
- Mr. Hall suggested that we pay for the maintenance of the property out of the "maintenance" line item and hold specific fundraisers for piece of the project.
- Mr. Kennington asked if the committee would be comfortable with voting on just the grass at this time, and the members present (Ms. Conine, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Dearman) shared that they were.
- Mr. Kennington thanked the committee for the time they have put into this project.
- Due to the lease on the elementary building being up in 2020, decisions on facilities need to be looked at within the next 12-18 months
- Mr. Kennington asked Mr. George about getting a walkway between that property and the school building but was told it was highly unlikely that we would be able to get a walkway that is not at an intersection.

*Anna Johnson made motion to approve Cameron Williams for \$12,360 for grass, grading and 1 year of maintenance.*

*Michele Knapp seconded the motion.*

*The motion carried unanimously. 5/0*

*Anna Johnson made motion to purchase the City of Statesville's irrigation pump for \$292.*

*No one seconded the motion.*

*The motion died on the floor.*

*Mr. Kennington stated they would pick this back up at a later date.*

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**6. Item Two - Staff Retention and Recruitment - Tony Hall, Head of School**

- Mr. Hall recommended the hiring of Emily Keith for the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade teaching position.
- He will make a recommendation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher next week.
- Jim Duffey shared that 3 people interviewed for the Art teacher position. The 2<sup>nd</sup> interviewee, Savannah Wilkins, was a great fit as she is an artist and teacher.
- Interviews for the Middle School Math position will take place next week. Mr. Hall recommends a signing bonus for this position as there is a shortage of instructors in this area and it holds high accountability.
- Mr. Kennington asked for ideas for recruitment

*Michele Knapp made motion to approve the hiring of Savannah Wilkins for the Middle School Art Teacher and Emily Keith for the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher.*

*Marc Davis seconded the motion.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**7. Board Chair Remarks – Sam Kennington**

- Mr. Kennington asked that agenda items for the next meeting be sent to him
- He would like updates from John Mairs and Jim Duffey pertaining to technology and the middle school
- We will discuss the new accounting firm, bylaws, charter, policies and the strategic plan

**8. Closed Session (if needed) – Sam Kennington**

None.

**9. Next Meeting and Adjourn –**

The next meeting of the board of directors will be on July 22, 2016 at 8:30 am in the Wells Fargo Bank Building.

*Michele Knapp made a motion to adjourn.*

*The motion was seconded by Anna Johnson*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

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

Approved on: August 3, 2016 Signature of Officer: Harriette Bailey