

**American Renaissance School
Board of Directors Meeting
March 4, 2020
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 Present: Michele Knapp, Kameron Brown, Jonathan Bell, Frank DiGangi, Tracy Sain, Danny Carpenter, Caity Gordon, Raphael Weeks

Board Members Not Present: Tracy Sain

Administrative Staff Present: Jim Duffey, Andrea Leluika, Jessica Duncan, Danielle Cusick

Administrative Staff Not Present: Tai McMiller

Call to Order at Michele Knapp

Approval of Agenda Michele Knapp

Motion to approve by Frank. Seconded by Jonathan.

Recognition

- (circle back to this at 6pm - waiting until staff is available to be present)
- EC Staff Danielle Cusick
 - Minimum 25 hours of paperwork per student (speech pathologist has about 1500 hours per year).
 - Introducing (present at meeting):
 - Sandy Smith: Resource teacher at Elementary, inclusion teacher at Middle. 24 students on her caseload.
 - Yvonne Foster & [] Meredith: Speech pathologists. 60 students receive ST; 54 are speech only and 26 that have related services.
 - Lindsey Henderson: Assistant EC teacher for K-5. Primarily an interventionist. Lindsey works 1-on-1 with high-functioning student in kindergarten.
 - Bebe (Beverly) Brown: EC Teacher's Assistant. Works wherever needed (adaptive classroom, etc.).
 - [-- Duran]: 3rd grade inclusion students
 - Heather Carr: resource teacher at middle school, will be coming to elementary in April to begin transition meetings for adaptive classroom.
 - Stephanie Hummels: K-8 adaptive classroom teacher. Will transition to middle school.
 - Note - Renee will be taking over adaptive K-5 students.

Approval of Minutes Michele Knapp

February minutes are unavailable. Will approve February minutes at the next board meeting.

Public Comments

Michele Knapp

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Committee Reports

- Personnel
 - Tech and Com Director recommendation Jim Duffey
 - Jim offered job to David Brooke, pending board approval.
 - Was director of IT for CookOut restaurants. Resume is in shared folder.
 - Jim has made a recommendation to hire David Brooke.
 - **Kam moved to approve. Frank seconded.**
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- Governance
 - Open Board Position Kam Brown
 - Interviewed 5 candidates.
 - Recommending to appoint Mary Catherine Smith to the board.
 - **All voted in favor to appoint Catherine to the ARS BOD.**
 - Jim to set up email and board name tag.
 - Policies
 - Committee is looking at putting together a set of policies for discussion at the next [closed] board meeting.
 - June Board Meeting Jim Duffey
 - Moving this board meeting to **June 24 at 8am.**
- Finance
 - Monthly Financials Frank DiGangi
 - As of January 31: 51% complete
 - YTD surplus of over \$500k
 - Short of updated state projection by about \$100k
 - EC Headcount is increasing from December to February
 - Annual fund is projecting about \$500k higher than expected
 - 57% of budget utilized with 58% of the year complete
 - Surplus projection \$165k by end of year
 - Jonathan: note that these surpluses are being directed towards future expenses (Triple Net Lease, completion of new building)
 - Frank: 2019/2020 has been a very healthy financial year
 - Jim: next year, looking at around \$100k increase in retirement/health care cost (over \$6,000 per employee for health care; 1% for retirement)
 - **Kam moved to approve February financials. Jonathan seconded.**
 - Quarterly report may have been 'lost in mail.' Frank is in touch with IRS.
 - ACCESS Grant Jim Duffey
 - Submitted a strong proposal.
 - Wait until late April/early May to find out if we've been awarded the ACCESS Grant.

- Petway Mills Contract for 2020-2021 School Year Jim Duffey
 - Rates are essentially the same.
 - Good practice to keep the same auditor [company].
 - **Contract has been presented. Motion to approve by Jonathan. Raphael seconded.**

- Fundraising Caity Gordon
 - RAP Report
 - On par with ticket sales (just over \$13k right now).
 - Could use more auction items.
 - Committee meeting had a good turnout.
 - Sponsorships are on par, as well. Could use some smaller sponsors (\$100-250).

- Facilities
 - New Campus Update Tracy Sain/Jim Duffey
 - Jim: Meeting on Friday where we should have a final floor plan with an external design that we like.
 - Danny: 25-26 seat classrooms are sized up.
 - Jonathan: There is a grading difference of about 6ft between R&L property and ours. Discussing easement options.
 - Traffic study with HMTB (firm that did the traffic study) and DOT. Report had positive results for our pickup and dropoff traffic flow. Seismic testing was also done.
 - Guaranteed maximum price will be provided about 6 weeks after all the schematics have been finalized.

School Reports

- K-8
 - Application Update Jim Duffey
 - Application deadline: March 6
 - Lottery: March 11
 - K- 128
 - 1- 18
 - 2- 16
 - 3- 17
 - 4- 14
 - 5- 23
 - 6- 27
 - 7- 13
 - 8- 4
 - Total 260
 - Past Numbers
 - 19-20 292
 - 18-19 254
 - 17-18 280

- **Elementary** - see written report
- **Middle** - see written report
- **Student Services**- see written report
- **Counseling**- see written report
- **Technology & Communications**
- **Other Notes:**
 - Working on growing diversity on staff as well as in student body. Tai McMiller and an ARS parent will be attending fair(s) at historic black colleges.
 - Tai attended sessions and will be training staff on de-escalation tactics and restraining methods (where necessary).

Kameron moved to go into closed session for contract negotiations, policy, school safety procedures. Frank seconded.

Closed Session - Contract Negotiation

Jonathan moved to adjourn. Kam seconded. Motion passed.