

Academy Adventures Midtown School Governing Board Meeting Minutes

3025 N. Winstel Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716

January 10, 2019 - 3:00 PM

1. Call to Order, Role Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 PM by Cathy Rex
Members Present: John T. Penczar, Cathy Rex, Nikki Pitman, Carol Towner
(Telephonically)
Member Absent: Duane Wrobel
Public: Angela Towner, Patricia Campbell

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 13, 2018

Motion by Ms. Cathy Rex/second by Mr. John Penczar - The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

3. Board Approval of the Revised Special Education Policies and Procedures as required by ADE/ESSA/IDEA

Revised Special Education Policies and Procedures is modeled off of the template provided by ADE/ESSA to ensure that all new requirements are met.

Motion by Ms. Carol Towner/second by Ms. Nikki Pitman - The Board unanimously voted to approve the Revised Special Education Policies and Procedures.

4. Present and Discuss "D" rating that was awarded to the school by the Arizona Department of Education and the plans moving forward

The "D" Rating is based on the scores from the Spring 2018 AzMERIT state testing. Due to the rating, there is a series of items that we have to complete, much like we did a few years ago when we were a Priority School.

Letters were sent home to parents informing them of the school rating and that a series of meetings would be set up to discuss the program and get their input.

Parent meetings started today and were incorporated into meetings that were already scheduled for today and tomorrow. More will be set up in the coming month.

We have to formally write up a plan on how to help the student achievement improve, much of which we had already started to implement and was written into our Title I grant. We will be focusing on both Math and ELA, specifically targeting areas of need that the students are showing deficiencies in. Afternoons will be dedicated to Title I time and working with students in smaller groups on the identified areas. In addition, we will be having weekly PD sessions for teachers focusing on ways to differentiate in the classroom and during Title I time in the afternoons. Tier III students will be specifically targeted and working with Tutors.

It was suggested by a staff member/board member (Ms. Pittman) that many of these students stay after school for the extended day program and could we work with them during those times as well. Mr. Penczar said definitely. We have two Title I Interventionists that are here during extended day and will begin working with students who have specific needs.

Ms. Rex inquired how we are incorporating community and staff into our plans and if this rating will hurt our enrollment. Mr. Penczar explained that we do not anticipate the "D" rating hurting enrollment. Most of our parents are supportive of what we do. We will continue to have parents meetings and activities to get both parents and community involved.

No action/motion needed.

5. Introduce New Hires and discuss current employee placements

Ms. Patricia Campbell, principal, gave an update on staff. Currently we have two new staff members that recently started. We have Ms. Bethania Wade (Hired end of November) who is teaching 1st and 2nd Grade and Ms. Gale Quackenbush (hired January 7th) who is teaching music one day a week, Art two days a week and doing Title I Intervention in ELA 4 days a week.

Kindergarten is being taught by Ms. Campbell and a Highly Qualified Parapro, Ms. Tiffany Vanover, who was hired the beginning of the school year.

3rd Grade is being taught by Ms. Campbell and a Highly Qualified returning Parapro, Ms. Jessica Moskal.

4th Grade is being taught by Ms. Rae McComas (Hired beginning of school year). She is also teaching STEM/Science 4 days a week during Title I time.

5th Grade is being taught by Mr. Penczar and he is assisted by a Highly Qualified Parapro, Carrie Joyce-Houghtelling, who was hired the beginning of the school year.

Ms. Nikki Pittman assists Ms. Wade in the 1st and 2nd grade class and Ms. Rubi Miller helps by filling in where needed and assisting all staff members.

No action/motion needed.

6. Present and Discuss Additional Funds received for Title 1 and allocation of those funds.

After recalculations the Arizona Department of Education has allotted us another \$31,000 for Title I. This money will be written into our Title I Grant and allocated to personnel.

7. Board Member Update

Due to the inability to get ahold of Mr. Duane Wrobel and the fact that he has not been to any meetings recently, Mr. Penczar recommends that he be removed from the Board.

Motion by Ms. Carol Towner/second by Ms. Nikki Pitman - The Board unanimously voted to remove Mr. Wrobel from the Board as of today.

8. Set up Next Board Meeting

Next meeting will be towards the end of March, after the 3rd Galileo Test is taken so that the results can be presented to the Board. Date is set for March 28th at 3:00 PM

9. Call for Public Comment

No public comment.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Ms Carol Towner/second by Ms. Nikki Pitman - The Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 3:35 PM.