

Academy Adventures Midtown School Governing Board Meeting Minutes

3025 N. Winstel Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716

March 11, 2019 - 3:00 PM

1. Call to Order, Role Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Cathy Rex
Members Present: John T. Penczar, Cathy Rex, Nikki Pitman, Carol Towner
Member Absent: Duane Wrobel, MaryAnn Applegate
Public: Angela Towner, Kirsten Kurtenbach, Patricia Campbell

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2019

Motion by Mr. John Penczar/second by Mrs. Carol Towner - The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: Carol Towner, Nikki Pitman, Jack Penczar & Cathy Rex

3. Discussion of Board Member Changes

The Board Members recognize that some Board Members have not been attending meetings for sometime, MaryAnn Applegate and Duane Wroble, to be specific. In the best interest of the Board, the current members agree to remove Ms. Applegate and Mr. Wroble from the Board as of today, and will actively look for a new member or members to replace them.

Staff will notify the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools of the changes and submit the necessary paperwork.

Motion by Mr. John Penczar/second by Mrs. Carol Towner - The Board unanimously voted to remove MaryAnn Applegate and Duane Wrobel from the School Board.

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: Carol Towner, Nikki Pitman, Jack Penczar & Cathy Rex

4. Review and Adoption of Policy Regarding Retention Stipends

The Retention Stipend would be used for teachers the school administration would like to return for the coming school year. The stipend would be given to the teacher at the beginning of the school year (August). Being such a small school and the difficulty in finding HQ teachers, the stipend would help secure staff for the coming school year. This stipend would only be available if there are funds available.

The Board would like the following bullet points included in the Policy:

- Only available if funds are available
- One time lump sum for the teacher, paid in August
- Teacher would sign a letter agreeing to remain at Academy Adventures Midtown for the entire year if they accept the bonus. If they choose to leave prior the end of the school year, they will be required to pay back the stipend they accepted.
- If the teacher is let go by the school, they are not required to pay back the stipend.
- The school administration will determine who gets the stipend and inform the Board who that will be
- The Board grants the school administration to include any other pertinent information in the policy

Motion by Ms. Cathy Rex/second by Ms. Carol Towner - The Board unanimously voted to direct the school administration to develop and implement a policy for Retention Stipends based on the bullet points listed above, as well as any other information they feel is pertinent.

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: Carol Towner, Nikki Pitman, Jack Penczar & Cathy Rex

5. Superintendent's Report on Title I Spring Mega Conference

Mr. Penczar attending a two (2) day conference in Phoenix regarding the new ESEA policies and programs. Information from the conference shared with the Board included:

- Title I is relying more on parent involvement within the schools and programs
- The application process is becoming more detailed requiring more specific and evidence based answers
- There is a lot of emphasis on not supplanting and making it clear in the paperwork that supplanting is not taking place. Paperwork has to be very clear how funds are being utilized.
- More surveys of parents and staff is required as part of the program
- There is a shift in the program with more emphasis on the physical aspects of the programs including things like music, art, technology, etc.

Currently part of our Title I program is using teachers in the afternoon to work with small groups of students on deficiencies. This program is M-Th in the afternoons. We are hoping to expand on the PE and Music programs for next year. Currently Music and PE is one day a week on Tuesdays.

No Action Needed

6. Presentation of Galileo Benchmark Testing

Mrs. Patricia Campbell, Principal of Academy Adventures Midtown, reported students has their 3rd Benchmark Assessment last week using Galileo. The assessments focus on Math and ELA. Highlights of the testing:

- 100% of students were tested
- Students were challenged to improve their previous score by 10%. Students who met the challenge would receive 2 N.U.T. Cards (No Uniform Today) and 1 Bake Sale Ticket.
 - ELA – 17 students increased by 10% or more
 - Math – 20 students increased by 10% or more
- There were several students who increased but did not make the 10%
- There were also several students whose scores decreased
- Both tests included information that the students have not been taught at this time in the school year, however, each grade level met or exceeded the expected growth.
- Overall picture of the assessments:
 - ELA:
 - 47 students were labeled Minimally Proficient
 - 7 Students were labeled Partially Proficient
 - 1 Student was labeled Proficient
 - 1 Student was labeled Highly Proficient
 - Math:
 - 32 Students were labeled Minimally Proficient
 - 15 Students were labeled Partially Proficient
 - 7 Student was labeled Proficient

- 2 Student was labeled Highly Proficient
- Most of our students are on track based on the algorithm used by Galileo
- A common deficiency through all the grade levels is Comprehension. This is being addressed in the afternoon Title I sessions, as well as some of the other deficiencies that are common throughout the tests.
- Overall the Math scores were higher, which is the opposite of this time last year.

Unfortunately, we do not really know how this will translate to the AzMERIT testing. There is no way to make that determination, but we can use what we have learned from the Galileo to help close some of the gaps before testing takes place in April.

No Action Needed

7. Set up Next Board Meeting

Next meeting is set for Thursday, May 2, 2019, at 3:00 PM

8. Call for Public Comment

No public comment.

9. Adjournment

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

Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: Carol Towner, Nikki Pitman, Jack Penczar & Cathy Rex