

Academy Adventures Midtown School Governing Board Meeting Minutes

3025 N. Winstel Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716

July 2, 2018 @ 3:00 PM

1. Call to Order, Role Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 PM by Cathy Rex
Members Present: John T. Penczar, Cathy Rex, Carol Towner & Nikki Pitman
Public: Angela Towner, Patricia Campbell

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 10, 2018

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

3. Discussion and Approval of Proposed Budget FY19

Budget was reviewed and discussed.

- Similar to last year's budget
- Money for Administrative Costs was moved into Instruction
- Teacher raises are reflected
- Title IVA
 - We were informed in April that we could apply for Title IVA funds. This Title has to do more with the Arts and parent involvement. We had started a program earlier in the year that centered around High Protein Nutrition Snacks for the students and built that in as part of our extended day learning Adventures program. We received a grant for \$10,000 and recently learned they acquired more federal funds for the program and we may qualify for as much as \$20,000. Any extra money from that increase we will put towards Art and Music programs
 - The program will be expanded this year with Title IVA funds and will include having more parent involvement such as: nutrition class information, having the parents come in and cook healthy snacks with their children, learn more about nutritious snacks they can feed their children, etc.

Motion by Ms. Cathy Rex/seconded by Ms. Carol Towner - The Board unanimously voted to approve the Proposed FY19 Budget.

4. Discussion and Approval of Potential Acquisition of Property Next Door to School

The property had been sold but the deal fell thru and the property is back up for sale. The owners approached Mr. Penczar because they would like to sell the property to the school. Current Ed Ahead Board Members, Gary Best and David DeConcini, are looking into loans to buy the property outright. If not able to get a loan, may look into just making monthly payments on the property.

It is somewhat risky, however in another sense it is not. It would only add about \$800-\$900 to the current property mortgage, still making it less than \$2000 a month. It would provide a lot more space.

We are looking at using the space initially for STEM, small group instruction and/or possibly for Kindergarten. Angela and Tricia, along with some staff attended some Robotic Programming classes this summer and will be adding that to the curriculum. The space would allow the students to work on the robotics in a space that is designated for it, instead of having to try to do it in a classroom. All grades will be able to participate in the Robotics programs. By buying the property, it allows us to expand on our STEM programs and provide the students more opportunities.

Motion by Mr. Jack Penczar/seconded by Ms. Nikki Pitman - The Board unanimously voted that if the funding is available the acquisition of the property would be beneficial to the school and the program and leave the final decision up to the discretion of the Superintendent.

5. Discussion and Approval of Teacher Salary Increase for FY19

Last year teacher salary for Highly Qualified Teachers was a base salary of \$31,000. 301 monies and participation in the after school extended learning day program added to the base amount. The hope is to raise the base salary 5% this coming year, based on enrollment and funding. We have one HQ teacher returning from last year, but she was only with us a few months and was hourly at the time.

Would like to set up the pay scale to reflect everyone who teaches. Because we are so small, we have people in multiple roles, that includes them doing some teaching as well and we would like to be able to compensate them appropriately.

Motion by Ms. Carol Towner/seconded by Ms. Cathy Rex - The Board unanimously voted to direct the Superintendent and Administration to increase salaries as they feel appropriate based on enrollment and funding available.

6. Presentation and Discussion of Student Test Scores

Board Members were given a handout that outlined the AzMERIT and end of year Galileo testing results for grades 3-5.

- AzMERIT does not show growth and higher achievement like Galileo so the scores are a little more straightforward than what was discussed at the last board meeting in reference to Galileo.
- The AzMERIT and Galileo Scores results are very similar, showing that Galileo is a good indicator to use when predicting the AzMERIT scores.
- Ms. Rex asked if there was any correlation to the scores and a child being promoted to the next grade level? How does this affect the child going to the next grade level and how does the school/staff deal with this.
 - AzMERIT ELA determines if third grade students meet the Move on When Reading (MOWR) requirements. All of our students met those requirements. As for the other grades and mathematics, the AzMERIT does not hinder a student from moving to the next grade level. After a review of the scores, the school determines the needs of the students and the following is implemented:
 - Title I Interventionists tutor the students in small groups and work in the classroom to provide added support

- Differentiation to lessons to help those students who need more help and allow other who have the concepts to move on
 - Teachers work harder to try to catch all the students up
- The School Average scores for the AzMERIT are only about 23 points from the state average, so our students did well comparatively.
- Ms. Rex inquired if there was anything the Board could do to provide more support. There is nothing specifically at this time, but we will discuss it and come back to the Board if there is anything the school could use more support or ideas on.
- Math scores were a little bit higher than the ELA scores, which is somewhat ironic considering the Math test is very much a test on reading as it is on math concepts.
- We are happy with Galileo and it is a good predictor on how the students will perform on the AzMERIT
- We will continue to work with the students and find ways for them to become more invested on how they perform on these tests.

No action/motion needed.

7. Discussion on Math Curriculum

Over the summer staff has looked at a few different new math curriculums. The staff is not happy with the current Curriculum, GoMath, and wants to find a curriculum that will be better for the students.

We were able to get a few samples of other math curriculums. The one that the teachers seemed to like best was based on Singapore math and very different from GoMath. However, the cost of that program for one year was over \$20,000. We were able to get them down to about \$9,000 but that was still significantly high for the curriculum.

If we were to stay with GoMath for another year, the cost would be around \$1400.

Ms. Rex asked for clarification on what curriculum stood for. It includes the methods and materials needed to teach math to the students.

Another program that was reviewed is an online program called Zearn Math. This program for grades 1-5 has both online components and workbooks. It is structured so that the students are divided into groups with part of the students doing the online lesson, while the teacher works with the other students, then they switch. The program has built in differentiation, professional development that provides teachers with strategies and information on how to present the lessons, it does not allow a child to move on until they can demonstrate that they understand the math concept being presented and teachers are able to get real time reports on how the children are doing. The cost, depending on what level of support and how many students is around \$7000. The teachers have voted to try this program for the 2018-19 school year.

Since a lot of curriculum and learning is moving more towards being online, teachers like the idea of the Zearn Math program. Currently the ELA programs, SuperKids and CKLA, both have online components as well. We also have a supplemental math program online called Lumio and a typing program online that the students use.

No action/motion needed.

8. Discussion on Enrollment for 2019

Current enrollment is 60 students and 56 FTE (Full Time Equivalents). We are at about the same as this time last year. We have been doing a lot of recruiting and will continue the next several weeks.

Ms. Rex suggested talking to a business on the main streets to see if we could put a sandwich board on their property directing them to the school. Mr. Penczar will look into that.

Ms. Rex inquired about how many students who pre-register actually show. It is approximately 80-90% of returning students and 75-80% of new students who pre-enroll. Although we keep contact with the families in various ways throughout the summer, it is hard to predict who will actually show until the first few days of school.

No action/motion needed.

9. Set date for Next Board Meeting

Next meeting will on July 13, 2018 at 9:30 AM to adopt the budget.

10. Call for Public Comment

Ms. Towner, Board Member, proposed that the Board consider adding another Board Member to replace Duane. She recommends asking Ms. Nancy Mead, who is a former educator and has been working for the Arizona Department of Certification for over 20 years. She has a ton of resources, knowledge and really supports the school. Mr. Penczar is familiar with Ms. Mead and agrees she would be a great addition to the Board and suggests that Ms. Towner invite her to the next meeting and we add considering a new Board Member to the next agenda.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Cathy Rex/seconded by Mr. Jack Penczar - The Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 4:06 PM.