

# ACADEMY ADVENTURES MIDTOWN SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING & ED AHEAD BOARD MEETING

3025 N. Winstel Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716

January 13, 2022 @ 11:30 AM

## 1. Call to Order, Role Call

The meeting was called to order at 11:42 AM by Cathy Rex  
Members Present via Zoom: John T. Penczar, Cathy Rex,  
Angela Towner, David DeConcini, Gary Best  
Present telephonically: Carol Towner  
Absent: Earl Doran

## 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2021

***Motion by Ms. Cathy Rex/second by Ms. Carol Towner - The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes for the School Board with the understanding the date at the bottom footer would be corrected.***

***Motion by Mr. John T Penczar/second by Mr. David DeConcini - The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes for Ed Ahead, Inc. with the understanding the date at the bottom footer would be corrected.***

*Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, Carol Towner & Cathy Rex (School Board)*

*Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, David DeConcini, Gary Best, & Angela Towner (Ed Ahead Board)*

## 3. Review SEA End of Year Activities

Newsletters are going out monthly with updates on what is happening at the school.

We are still on School Improvement but the state has asked the federal government that if schools pass the tests this year if they can be taken off. We will wait to see what happens.

Students are showing great improvement since August. The 2<sup>nd</sup> benchmark that took place in December, showed that from August to December the students scores increased from 20% to 42% overall. The weekly assessments are also showing steady improvement, especially in grades 3-5.

We have carryover from the Acceleration Academies Grant. We plan to try to use that to increase tutoring in the after school program by using hands on activities to support the concepts being taught during the day. This will include using the puppet theater that the school purchased that came with stories and puppets.

We were able to resume our annual December Baking days this year. We made tamales, lasagna and decorated cookies at school. We had a few parents and grandparents participate but the involvement was very low. We made around 22 dozen tamales and 7 pans of lasagna.

***No Motion Needed***

## 4. Discussion and Approval of the use of ESSER III monies to upgrade school facilities to help provide safe learning environment during the pandemic

Some of the money from the ESSER III Grant has been approved by the state to use for upgrades to school facilities to provide a safe learning environment during the pandemic. We would like to take

advantage of that opportunity and do the following upgrades to the school:

- New AC Units w/ greater air exchange and will include the Halo system
- Misting fan system (3 fans) for the outdoor eating area so it can be used not only for breakfast and lunch but also as a learning space during the day to spread the students out
- New interior and exterior doors. The interior doors will be insulated and help with sound making it a quieter learning area.
- Lighting in the classrooms. Currently the lighting is below recommended levels. We will be getting new LED lights which will make the spaces more conducive to learning

We continue to enforce masks for all staff, students and visitors. Students are sent home if they show any signs of being ill and have to stay home for 72 hours with no symptoms before they can return. We have shields on the desks and high touch areas are cleaned throughout the day as well as deep cleaned at night.

We are also able to use the money for salaries and to increase salaries for paraprofessionals, teachers and other staff.

***Motion by Gary Best (Ed Ahead Board)/Cathy Rex (School Board) to approve the use of ESSER III funds as described above to upgrade school facilities and use for salaries as needed. Seconded by David DeConcini (Ed Ahead Board)/Carol Towner (School Board).***

*Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, Carol Towner & Cathy Rex (School Board)*

*Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, David DeConcini, Gary Best, & Angela Towner (Ed Ahead Board)*

#### **5. Update on Staff Changes**

We have lost two (2) staff members over the last several months. We have not been able to find anyone to replace them. We have done several advertisements, talked to people we know and reached out to local colleges.

If anyone knows of someone, please send our way!

**No Motion Needed**

#### **6. Set up Next Board Meeting**

TBD – Late March

#### **7. Call for Public Comment**

No public comment.

#### **8. Adjournment**

***Motion by Mr. Gary Best/second by Ms. Cathy Rex - The Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 12:00 PM.***

*Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, Carol Towner & Cathy Rex (School Board)*

*Nay Votes – 0; Yay Votes: John Penczar, David DeConcini, Gary Best, & Angela Towner (Ed Ahead Board)*