

**Aquarian Charter School
Academic Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 15, 2021

Time: 5:45 p.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Ms. Brittany, Nicole Thibodeau, Nichole Walker, Mera Matthews, Debbie Cedeno, Hope McClurg, Lisa Chelmo, Christin MacInnis, Heidi Wailand, Mollie Harings, Meghan McManamin

Call to order: 5:45 PM

Principal Report, Reported by Ms. Brittany

Enrollment Information

- There are currently 377 students enrolled.
 - In-Person :343 students
 - Stopgap: 22
 - ASD Virtual:12 students

Budget Brief

District received second round of stimulus money under CRRSA.

- Aquarian will receive \$367,052 based on our AADM
- Ms. Brittany proposes we use part of these funds to make Nurse Celest full-time for the next two years
- Remaining monies will be used for the following:
 - Chromebook and charging cables replacements/repairs
 - Additional PPE
 - Staff Computer Replacement
 - Air purification filters

Covid Update

- No students or teacher has tested positive from a contact at school.
- No classroom closures

Daily Operations

- Lottery key dates
 - March 18, 2021: Closes for applications
 - March 19, 2021: Lottery runs
 - March 22-25, 2021: Schools validate accepted and waitlists.
 - March 26, 2021: Parent notifications of lottery results.

• **Testing**

- The PEAKS testing window is from March 29th through April 30th.
- Classroom teachers will email families with their class specific dates.

Vision

Aquarian Charter School cultivates a creative community of lifelong learners and compassionate, engaged citizens.

Mission

With community support, Aquarian Charter School strives to meet children at their level through unique instruction that values the whole child, academic excellence, and fine arts to create a balanced and rewarding learning experience.

The APC reserves the right to enter into executive session as provided for in State Law on any agenda item, in accordance with AS 44.62.310.

Approved 4/19/21


Curriculum:

- Saxon
 - Saxon announced retirement of Saxon Math
 - Print materials will not be sold after 7/1/2021
 - Request to purchase materials for next three years, allowing time for staff curriculum review committee to:
 - Research other options
 - Pilot the top selections
 - Present findings
 - APC approval

Reading Curriculum

- ASD has begun a new process for alternative schools and programs including charter schools who wish to utilize an alternative curriculum different from ASD board approved curriculum. The intent is to ensure any alternative curriculum used in an ASD school meets a level of integrity that guarantees all students in the ASD are receiving high quality education with standards aligned curriculum.
- A charter school curriculum review procedure and application must be included in the charter school reapplication process. Since we are the first charter school to go through this process, Darrell has agreed to work with us on a statement that will accompany a timeline of how we intend to comply with the procedure.
- Aquarian uses the same phonemic awareness curriculum, science and social studies and 6th grade reading curriculum but we need to look at reading curriculums to support K-5.

Staffing

Certificated:

- Mr. Neal will not be returning to Aquarian
- Mrs. Megan will be moving from 4th grade to 1st grade for the 2021-22 school year.
- Interviews start next week

Classified:

- We have two TA openings for the 2021-22 school year

Facilities

We have reached a 95% of the design phase for our building improvements

Treasurer Report: Provided by Nicole Walker

- Budget has been approved by the school board
- Not concerned about overages

Other Reports:

- Teacher Report: Provided by Ms. Christin
 - More kids returning from stop gap
 - Kids are settling in more
 - Hard time with finding subs
- TA Report: Provided by Ms. Hope
 - Lots of TAs have gotten shots and are back.

Committee Updates / Old Business / New Business

- Long-Term Planning/Facilities Committee: No further update

Bylaws / Charter Committees- Provided by Nicole T

Good news-First draft of charter is finished!

- Updated gifted services section in charter. There will be no small group gifted instruction

Bad news- District added additional component of curriculum approval

- Work with Darrel to craft language to buy some time.
- Nicole T. proposes to approve the charter update and to share with community and ask for feedback through April 9th. Motion passes unanimously
- 3/22/2021 meeting cancelled

Surveys Committee

Results from the community survey to be discussed in executive session

Election Committee

- 9 people have applied for APC
- Simply voting –

Saxon Math curriculum discussion: Funding request to extend Saxon

Molly motions to approve up to 45,000 to purchase Saxon materials for the next three years.

Nicole T seconds

Discussion: What if we need more than three years of curriculum?

Amend motion: Nicole W. motions to approve up to \$75,000 to purchase Saxon materials for next 5 years. Heidi seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Staffing discussion: Request to make nurse full-time for two years

Nicole moves to approve \$90,000 Cares act money for salary and benefits for next two years for the nurse position. Hope seconds.

Discussion- Has this been discussed this with Ms. Celeste?

- Ms. Brittany confirmed Celeste has agreed to increase FTE for two years

Motion Passed unanimously

Executive Session

Heidi moves to enter executive session to discuss results of community survey. Nicole W. seconds.
Enter executive session at 7:15 PM

Discussed community survey results-

Survey committee will put together bullet points and share results at the end of 4th quarter

Adjourn executive session @7:38

Adjourn Regular Meeting at 7:41 PM

Next APC meeting is set for April 19, 2021 at 5:45 via zoom