

ACEC - December 20, 2021

Meeting Start: 7:04pm

Board Members Present: Ashley B, Erika G, Becky B, Chris J, Gina C, Jeremy O, Jill M, Kristi C, Liz B, Nicole V, Shari H

Others Attending: Mary Beth H

Welcome (Gregorius):

- Please raise hand or use chat feature to ask a question during future zoom meetings
 - Open forum at end can be used for discussions that are not listed in the agenda
- Motion to approve meeting minutes from November, 2nd by Kristi C
 - Approved by: Gina C, Chris J, Erika G, Jeremy O, Liz B, Kristi C, Nicole V, Jill M, Becky B, Shari H
- There is a grant that our school qualifies for and needs to be completed by February 16th; we should attempt to complete the info necessary by this date because the grant is only available every two years
 - If we receive the grant, we would have a year to plan
 - We should start a committee for ACEC involvement with the teachers
 - This will require significant change of the language of our charter
 - No employee can be a voting member of the board (teachers or principals would not be allowed to vote)
 - The school would need full autonomy over hiring and firing
 - We need three letters of recommendation (third community member) for the expansion of the school
 - All of this is contingent on the board approving the expansion plan at the school board meeting (addition of 6th grade to the school) - open forum is at the beginning of the meeting
 - Would also involve the closing of Roosevelt school and moving our school to another building
 - The current plan: Alliance will move to the current Wilson elementary school location
 - Wilson and Roosevelt will move to the Horace Mann location
 - Ms Bath is not sure where she will be positioned as principal but she will stay committed to helping during the grant process
 - Bath: Teachers find these grants through networking with other charter schools, not up to the parents to be responsible to help out with the grants (unless asked by the teachers)

Principal Report (Bath):

- We're looking forward to 2 more fun days with the students - Tuesday is pajama day and Wednesday will have fun activities for the students
- As we return from break, our partnership with Heckrodt will begin again
- There will be opportunities for game nights and community engagement activities as well

Teacher Report (Connor & Bardosy):

- 1/2/3 have completed the growth and human development programs
- Mrs K is having Dr Eric come for skate club (on a Thursday afternoon or Friday morning); will try it with the 1/2/3 class first to see how it goes
 - Mrs K's class also met with a Denali park ranger
- Kindergarten has sock exchange coming up this week
- 4/5 have white elephant exchange coming up this week
- An alumni has come to volunteer in our classrooms after the volunteer request was posted on our Facebook page
- Mrs Allen wants to figure out what to do with keyboards and benches so we can make room for the ukuleles
- Alliance teachers did a virtual training through the Virginia Montessori Association
 - Purchased whole school membership (\$100) so they can attend various meetings
 - Methods to teach to dyslexic students
- "My culture" day in Mrs Bardosy's class tomorrow and the day after

Treasurer's Report (Ondresky):

- The fall fundraiser set us up for the upcoming school year
- Ukuleles are paid for
- Erika: How should we move forward with music fees (\$200-\$300 yearly maintenance fee)? We don't need to answer this now, but it should be something to discuss at future meetings
 - Is that something we can work into our budget or will we need to have a separate fee?
 - Per Jeremy, we collected \$2035 in music fees this year

Open Forum:

- Jill: bulk of the keyboarding fees went to purchasing the books (didn't have that much left over for other costs)
 - At her previous time as treasurer, she was informed that the original set of keyboards were purchased with grant money given to the district so the keyboards technically belong to NJSD
 - If we dispose of the keyboards (and earn money in the process), that money needs to go to NJSD towards their music program
 - The back row of keyboards belongs to ACEC
 - We need to have a conversation with Mrs Allen to decide if it is even worth holding on to the keyboards

- We will form a committee to determine what to do with the keyboards and work with Mrs Allen to figure out
 - Before forming the committee, Mrs Connor will work with Mrs Allen to make a list of which keyboards are salvageable and Ms Bath can find the contact person in the district to see what they would like us to do with them
- Question: Are there any key points to bring up at the open forum to support the school at the school board meeting tomorrow?
 - Per Ms Bath: The survey results were included in the presentation to the board; our building isn't holding up and Horace Mann (one of the newer buildings in the district) would otherwise sit empty
 - Our building is landlocked (the playground is owned by Theda) so there isn't room for expansion at our building and our classrooms are very small for the class sizes that we have
- Review of parent rep roles
 - The parent reps deliver emails from the board to the parents, information from subcommittees would be directed to Erika or Liz who would send it to parent reps if necessary, getting mat cleaning organized for the class rooms, inform the board of questions or concerns that parents have
- Volunteers for committee that wants to help with the grant paperwork
 - Erika G, Liz B, Chris J, Kristi C
 - Date to meet in January will be determined after this meeting
 - Mrs Connor noted that the teachers have started the groundwork for this so we should make sure there isn't overlap between the two groups (parent group and teacher group) so extra work isn't being done
- Science Fair - in the past it was run by the teachers. Currently, it is not moving forward
- Chris: Do we want to support the expansion of Alliance or the closing of the Roosevelt building?
 - Both can be supported but the closing of the Roosevelt building does not have to be something that is pushed
 - Bardosy: The building is no longer sustainable to allow the school to grow
 - Wilson and Roosevelt moving to Horace Mann would allow room for growth since they are three tracks (combined) and Horace Mann would allow for four tracks if necessary
 - Connor: we're looking at 16 sections at Alliance after an expansion which would not be fulfilled well by the Roosevelt building; we would have the same issues we have now (no designated rooms for music or art, classrooms that are too small for the number of students in each room, lack of classrooms for math or language services, etc)

Motion to end meeting by Erika, seconded by Shari

Meeting ended at 8:15 pm