

ACEC Board Meeting  
May 24, 2021  
Start Time: 7:01 pm

Board Members Present: Ashley Bath, Bryan Engelhardt, Erika Gregorius, Sara Klawikowski, Nicole Valencic, Shari Hanneman, Ashay Desai, Dana Patel, Liz Bradley, Erica Cates

Others Attending: Lisa Posegate, Jill Mach, Kristi Clover, Mary Beth Hendrickson, Kathleen Hallett, Jodi Lank, Kathleen, Emily, Tammy, Jennifer Thomas, Katie Engelhardt, Gina Connor, Mrs M, Courtney Ascher

Welcome/Introductions (Englehardt):

- Minutes from last month's meeting were approved

Principal's Report (Bath):

- There are 6 ½ days left of school
- Bike hike is coming up
- Field day is this Wednesday
- 5th grade ceremony will be on the last day
- Excitement is high for all of the progress that the school has made during this school year

Teacher Report (Klawikowski/Cates):

- Thank you to the parents this year for being so supportive
- Many of the students that are in school are spending more time outside so please send the students to school in appropriate clothing (ie - shoes for walking)
- Make sure that the budget will get set for the upcoming school year
- Please keep an eye out for the ACEC survey that will be sent out (in addition to other surveys from the school district and the keyboarding survey)

Future of Music at Alliance (Survey and Charter Committees):

- Results to the keyboarding survey:
  - 41 families responded to the survey covering over half the students (graph of breakdown of families with grades of the students)
  - Has the keyboarding music program been an integral part of your Alliance experience?
    - 19 yes, 9 no, 13 somewhat
  - Was the keyboarding music program an integral part of your choice to bring your children to Alliance?
    - 11 yes, 15 no, 15 somewhat

- Are you willing to switch the keyboarding music program to a hybrid general music program?
  - 27 yes, 14 no
  - Not sure how this question was worded per slides presentation
- Do you have a keyboard at home?
  - 37 yes, 4 no
- Are you confident to set up or take down keyboards?
  - 10 yes, 31 no
  - In 3 years, we may be at a different location so this may not be a factor if we have a set music room
    - Also may be a K-6 school at Alliance, depending on board approval
- Are you confident to volunteer in music classes from 8:00-11:00?
  - 6 yes, 35 no
  - This question was difficult for some parents to answer because they weren't able to be there for 3 hours but they could be there for 2 hours
- If you have an Alliance alumni, did they choose to play an instrument in 6th grade?
  - 13 yes, 4 no, 23 do not have alumni
- If you have a 5th grader, which music program are they registered for in the 6th grade?
  - 2 gen music, 1 orchestra, 2 choir, 6 band, 3 two of these options
- Are you willing to pledge funds or spend time fundraising?
  - 25 yes, 16 no
  - For those who agreed to pledge funds, the total was \$2,225.
- Bryan talked to Jeremy - we have the money to purchase two rows of keyboards (as a reminder from last month's meeting, Mrs Allen said a new keyboarding lab would cost \$23,017)
  - Teacher question: How long did it take to raise the money for the keyboards?
    - It took 4 years to raise the funds for 2 rows of keyboards so that raises the question: will we be able to raise the funds in the appropriate amount of time for the next two rows?
- It was noted by the parent reps (Dana and Ashay) that parents reached out to them feeling that this decision is being rushed
  - Per Mrs Connor: Mrs Allen wanted to bring this conversation so that she can plan for this school's music future (leaving in 5 years) and decide how soon these keyboards need to be replaced (some need to be replaced right now) and be prepared to spend the money on the instruments. She and her husband spend a lot of time and effort on fixing the keyboards so they can last as long as possible. The adapters, especially, have become more difficult to repair.
  - The parents also wanted to note their appreciation for Mrs Allen
  - The other question was regarding a hybrid - would one day keyboards, one day general music be possible?

- Per Mrs Cates: this would be very difficult for Mrs Allen to plan
  - Is renting keyboards for a transitional year an option? Mrs Cates is unsure
  - Ashay also wanted to share an [article](#) that was provided by one of the parents
- Per Kathleen Hallett (her children no longer attend the school but she was one of the founding parents who wrote the grant for the keyboarding funding and looked into the research that related to learning how to play the keyboards (the physicality and how it is organized leads to better math scores)
  - The program worked at that time for the school and, as a charter, they wanted to figure out how to be unique compared to other charter schools in the area
  - Are there ways to integrate our music with the curriculum? There are different ways to move forward and the longevity for the funding is an important aspect. For example, we don't want our teacher funding to go to keyboards because without the teachers, we won't have much of a school
- Parent question - is there a certain amount of reserve that we have from the fundraising that is meant for keyboarding?
  - Per Jill Mach: We had specifically fundraised for keyboards the year before this covid year (prior to that, we were doing general fundraising which included music). Last year, in the general budget, we had the amount for 6 keyboards specifically earmarked
  - There is no specific bank account for music
- Per Mrs Connor: If we proceed with a general music class, Mrs. Allen wants to have a general music class that is different compared to the one outlined by the school district. This would include ukulele training, bell training, etc.
  - The money that we have set aside for new keyboards could be used to purchase those things instead
- Mrs Cates: she took an informal survey in her class:
  - Some of the students missed keyboarding but the students also said that they learned a lot about music this year. Some of the students admitted that they don't play the songs during class and are messing around while they wait their turn to play their song for Mrs Allen. The kids who gravitate to keyboards seem to be the ones that are musically inclined and come from musically inclined families and are already taking lessons.
- Kristi Clover mentioned that there are (music major) students from Lawrence University that could be connected to Mrs Allen to help enrich the program - Mrs Klawikowski added that she learned from previous discussions that funding was not available
  - Erika G mentioned that she had talked to the Neenah Music Parents group earlier this year to discuss virtual students playing an instrument this year and noted that the district may not allow outside volunteers to help with our music program
- Jodi Blank - previous president of the board whose child previously attended Alliance: what does the timeline look like to come to a decision? Should there be a committee that can do some of the planning for the charter if there is a June deadline? When will it be voted on?

- Mrs K: this decision needs to be made by June for next year to allow Mrs Allen enough time to plan
- Mrs Connor: Mrs Allen would like to know sooner rather than later because she has never played the ukulele before this year so she needs some time to prepare for that
- Ms Bath: some assumptions are being made for the next school year since 12 and under still aren't vaccinated so music may not be like precovid years. Also, there may be other options that have not been explored.
  - Per parents- this decision feels rushed and it would be helpful to take the next year to make an informed decision rather than trying to figure it out in a month
    - If the funding and volunteers are not there, then we should definitely explore other options but it doesn't seem like that has been ruled out
- Ashay - as a board are we looking at keyboarding or general music? What happens to the keyboards if we switch? Does it have to be an either/or program?
- Another parent wondered if there is a way to ask older alumni students how they feel? That could be helpful data to determine the impact of learning how to play the keyboard
- The adapters for the keyboards are outdated and therefore difficult to replace (replacements are unavailable) and many of them are starting to not work
  - Lisa Posegate and her family asked if they could take a look at the adapters to see if they could fix them
- No matter what, the kindergartners would use bells next year before starting the keyboards
- Bryan - we need to move forward due to time constraints so either someone needs to make a motion or a committee needs to be made:
  - Is there a way to have a one year trial period where one day is keyboards and one day is general music?
  - Dana - is it possible to vote on making a committee to come up with options for the board rather than vote right after?
  - Sara K - wonders if it is possible to have the district say COVID is a factor so we can move around the charter/bylaws (current bylaws state that there needs to be 2 music classes per week of keyboard instruction)? Need to make sure we are getting everyone's opinion if we are setting up a committee
  - Shari motioned to form a committee to explore options for the music program at Alliance
    - Motion was seconded by Bryan
    - The motion passed with members Engelhardt, Gregorius, Hanneman, Valencic, Patel, Bradley, and Desai voting in favor.
    - Volunteers for the committee: Kristi Clover, Lisa Posegate, Jodi Blank, Erica Cates, Gina Connor, Nicole Valencic, Sarah DeArmond, Mary Beth Hendrickson, Kathleen Hallett, Emily Hoffman, Erika Gregorius, Bryan Engelhardt, Stephanie Markman
    - Several attendees mentioned that Steve Draeger is an amazing resource for information regarding the path we would need to take for the charter and how to move forward with the music program

Elect Next Year's Board Members (Engelhardt)\*:

Chair - Erika Gregorius

Chair Elect - Liz Bradley is nominated (seconded by Erika)

The nomination passed with members Engelhardt, Patel, Desai, Klawikowski, Gregorius, Valencic, Cates, and Hanneman voting in favor.

Treasurer - Jeremy Ondresky is nominated (seconded by Nicole)

The nomination passed with members Patel, Bradley, Cates, Gregorius, Desai, Engelhardt, Valencic, and Hanneman voting in favor. Klawikowski abstained.

Secretary - Shari Hanneman is nominated (seconded by Erika)

The nomination passed with members Desai, Patel, Gregorius, Cates, Engelhardt, Valencic, and Bradley voting in favor.

Education Coordinator - Nicole Valencic is nominated (seconded by Shari)

The nomination passed with members Desai, Gregorius, Bradley, Cates, Patel, Engelhardt, and Hanneman voting in favor. Klawikowski abstained.

\*Jeremy Ondresky was not able to attend the meeting so his vote was not recorded

Volunteers to serve on the budget committee:

Erica Cates, Erika Gregorius, Liz Bradley (Kristi Clover volunteered as backup)

Volunteers for the ACEC Survey:

Erica Cates and Bryan Engelhardt

- Lisa Posegate can forward past survey information their way

Schedule Summer Meeting(s) and Discuss Next Year Objectives (Engelhardt):

- Information will be emailed out for a date in mid June

Meeting end time: 8:45pm