

Academy of Moore County Board of Directors Meeting September 20, 2023

Board Members Present: Janet Lowry, Chair; Thomas Beddow, Vice Chair; Michael Holden, Treasurer; Dave Kaylor, Sarah Lehberger, LouEllen Runyan, Richard Schoen, Natalie Wetzelberger, Dale Buie **Others Present:** Crystal Bonville, **Absent:** Daniel Romero.

Chair Lowry called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. A quorum was present. After a moment of silence, Mr. Beddow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The board unanimously elected three new members who were nominated last month: Daniel Romero, LouEllen Runyan, and Sarah Lehberger.

Secretary: Mr. Schoen made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 16; seconded by Mr. Kaylor, approved.

Treasurer: Mr. Holden reviewed the final June financials. TAMC ended the 2022—23 school year with a budget surplus of \$504,244.42. The school has two million dollars in the bank. Mrs. Lowry noted that the state has still not adopted a budget.

Director of Education: Dr. Buie said the year is off to a good start. Lego Club began this week, and other clubs will soon follow. Dan Thompson, author of Tig and Lily: Tiger Trouble, sponsored by the Country Bookstore, spoke to students in grades 1-5. Field trips have begun with Kindergartners going to the Aberdeen Fire Department and having lunch at Aberdeen Lake on Friday. Second graders saw a live production of “Annie” at Temple Theater.

Dr. Buie gave a detailed explanation of how the school’s “B” grade was calculated. The state’s testing program began in 1993 for children in grades 3-8 in reading and math. It has changed through the years and now, letter grades are given to schools. TAMC had the highest student achievement score in Moore County public schools this year.

Old Business:

Safety Committee: Mrs. Bonville and Dr. Buie are looking at options for the cameras the school needs.

Grounds Committee: Mr. Schoen will chair this group.

Renovation report: Mr. Schoen stated that he had told John Heckethorn to hold off on bid-able documents until the board met because of the cost, projected to be \$56,000. This renovation of the 3rd grade wing would add four new, larger classrooms in the upper building, enlarge two existing classrooms, and provide 2 additional gang toilets. Mr. Schoen said after this is completed, the school could house 2 sixth grade classes in that wing. Mr. Beddow made a motion to proceed with the bid-able documents at \$56,000; seconded by Mrs. Runyan, approved. Mr. Schoen anticipates that this project will cost about \$1.1 million.

New Business:

Mrs. Lowry distributed Board Resource notebooks to the group and quickly reviewed their contents. She briefly explained the Open Meeting requirements of public schools and said she and Dr. Buie would be responsible for the board's meeting them. She also pointed out the committee assignments, saying that anyone who wanted to be added to a committee should let her know. Mr. Beddow is willing to help with the Compensation Committee.

Parental Rights Policy: All public schools must have a parental rights policy in place quickly. The attorney for the NC Coalition of Charter Schools, Matthew Tilley, provided templates for the use of member schools at a recent zoom conference. Mrs. Lowry thanked Mrs. Runyan, Mrs. Lehberger, and Dr. Buie for participating in that zoom meeting. The Policy Committee will bring back a recommended policy next month.

Paid Maternity Leave Policy: Another recently implemented law for public schools is a paid maternity leave policy for new parents that traditional schools must provide this year. Charter schools are not required to do so. Many questions exist about how this could be financed in a small school. After considerable discussion, Mr. Beddow made as motion that the board approved the 8 weeks of paid leave and develop an appropriate policy. Mr. Kaylor seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Mrs. Lowry will ask our attorney to draft such a policy.

History of TAMC: Mr. Kaylor has developed a timeline for the school's history and plans to have a history written soon.


Strategic Plan Review: The board briefly revisited the Strategic Plan's three- year objectives. Progress is being made on many of them.

December Meeting: Mrs. Lowry asked that the board check their schedules to see if the December meeting could be moved from December 20 to 13.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 following Mrs. Wetzberger's motion, seconded by Mr. Kaylor, and approved.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,


Janet B. Lowry, Chairman