**Aspire Charter High School BOD Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Dale’s residence   
**Date:** May 24, 2021

**Time:** 9:30 – 10:00

**In Attendance**

Chair - Jim Secunda

Vice Chair – Dale Halton

Treasurer – Lauren Nicholson

Executive Director Aspire Carolinas – Jennifer Nichols

**Agenda Items**

1. **Review of meeting minutes (last month)**

Meeting minutes approved.

1. **Trade High School**

We would like to change the name of Huntersville Charter High School to Aspire Charter High School. It will be a temporary place holder name. We would like to offer the naming rights of the school to the donor the gives the naming right donation. The BOD agrees this is a good idea. Huntersville Charter High School limits us because we are going to be a regional charter high school and want support from all the surrounding towns.

**Motion:** Jim Secunda: Does the BOD accept the name change of the high school from Huntersville Charter High School to Aspire Charter High School?

**Motion Approved:** Voted Yes: Dale Halton, Jim Secunda, Jennifer Nichols and Lauren Nicholson. Yes, the BOD approves this name change.

Due to COVID limiting our fund-raising efforts we will need to delay the trade high school opening by one year. We are looking to raise money this year, build in 2022, and be fully open and operation for August 2023.

**Motion:** Lauren Nicholson: Does the BOD accept an additional one-year (we have already delayed one year) delay to give us time to raise money and build the trade high school to open in August 2023?

**Motion Approved:** Voted Yes: Dale Halton, Jim Secunda, Jennifer Nichols and Lauren Nicholson. The BOD approves the additional one-year delay to open the charter school.

1. **Branding for the School**
2. Little Red Bird (LRB) is currently working on branding for the trade high school. Once they create a logo/icon we will use that and when the naming right is given to the donor, we will simply change out the name of the high school but keep the logo and icon.
3. We would like to pay Ann Cesena for 16 hours a week to help with event planning and appointment making for fundraising efforts. We will also need her help with the curriculum and working with community college teachers.

**Motion:** Does the BOD approve hours for Anne Cesena?

**Motion Approved:** Voted Yes: Dale Halton, Jim Secunda, Jennifer Nichols and Lauren Nicholson. Yes, the board approves hours for Anne Cesena.

1. We had a good conversation with Ann Cesena and Dr. Houser at Gaston Community College. We would like to be able to hire some of our teachers from the community college staff. Currently community college teachers may only teach in their county. Pat McCrory gave Dale a contact who is the NC state head of community colleges. We would like get permission for the community college teachers to teach at our school both in the day to the charter school students and at night to other adults in our community.
2. **Adding Board Members**

Since Sarah McAulay has left our board, we need to all be thinking about new board members. We will talk with Jill Swain about a Huntersville contact. We would be interested in Michael Kahn if he rolls off the Fletcher school board. What skills are we looking for? Dale supports a high wealth individual who could assist with fundraising. Lauren recommends an attorney.

1. **High Wealth Donor Prospects:**

* Dan Bishop - (Jim & Dale)
* Joe Price (Dale)

We are currently talking with an attorney to help clear his gift, so he is able to give the funds to us.

* Rick Hendrick - (Jim & Dale)
* Felix Sabates - (Jim & Dale)

Jim, Dale, and Jennifer are currently planning a lunch. They will meet to discuss the Aspire Trade High School.

* David Tepper - (Jim)
* Greg Gombar - (Jim)
* Marcus Smith – (Jim)
* Katie Morris/Sally Gambrel - (Dale)

Dale is attending a UNCC award luncheon where Sally is getting an award. She will try to talk to her at this event about the Aspire Charter High School.

* Howard Levine - (Dale)
* Philip Blumenthal - (Dale)
* David Levine - (Dale)
* Frank Bragg – (Dale)
* Bank of America/Lori Henkel - (Lauren)
* Bill Brawley – (Dale)
* MacKenzie Scott – (Jennifer)

Lauren has a contact at the YMCA who worked on their application. She will reach out to them to see if they have any tips for us.

* Mermans - (Jennifer)
* Joe and Chris Price (Dale)
* Richard Vinroot (Dale)
* Chris William (Dale)
* Scott Whitlock (Dale)
* Jamie Harris (Jim)
* Greenhege (Jennifer)

Jennifer is sending material to Carlton Burton to forward to Greenhege.

* Elon Musk (Jennifer)

Jennifer has mailed a package to Elon’s brother’s mother-in-law.

1. **Schedule next meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled for June 22nd at 9:30 at Dale’s residence.