



Aspire Trade High School BOD Meeting Minutes

Location: Zoom Call

Date: April 20, 2022

Time: 6:45 pm – 7:35 pm

In Attendance

Vice Board Chair – Jennifer Nichols

Secretary – Marianna Sartin

Treasurer – Jim Secunda

Absent

Board Chair – Lauren Nicholson

Agenda Items

1.) Review and Approve March 31, 2022 Minutes

Motion: Marianna Sartin: Motion to approve as written. Jennifer Nichols: Seconds the motion.

Motion Approved: Voted Yes: Jennifer Nichols, James Secunda, Marianna Sartin.

2.) Accept Resignation of Board Member

Amanda Cuff has left the field of education and has resigned from the board.

Motion: Marianna Sartin: Motion to approve Amanda Cuff's resignation from the board. James Secunda: Seconds the motion.

Motion Approved: Voted Yes: Jennifer Nichols, James Secunda, Marianna Sartin.

3.) Name for Consideration for available board position – Rob Dixon

We would like the board to consider Rob Dixon for a board member position. We need good security and safety at our school. Rob is currently a safety manager at Mueller and a former police officer. He is well connected in the Huntersville area. He is very interested in a board position can we interview him to replace Amanda Cuff?

Motion: James Secunda: Motion to approve interviewing Rob Dixon for a board position to replace Amanda Cuff. Jennifer Nichols: Seconds the motion.

Motion Approved: Voted Yes: Jennifer Nichols, James Secunda, Marianna Sartin.

Jennifer will set up a meeting to have the BOD interview him next week. Introductory conversations with other potential board members are being held. We are interested in more diversity. We are setting up a call with Sonja Nichols to gauge interest.

4.) Meeting Updates

a. Steelfab (welding and automation) Madison Wade and Marsh Spencer

Steelfab would like assistance finding workers in welding and fabrication. On Tuesday Jennifer and Jamie will visit their facility to see what they need.

Boomerang Design (Kitchen questions for health dept)

We have met with Boomerang Design to go over the kitchen design at the new building. It will be a warming kitchen and culinary will be in a separate lab. We will have eleven lab spaces including the culinary lab. We could potentially have space for up to five hundred students in the building. We resolved the issue of the health department; they wanted the kitchen not to mix with the culinary lab.

b. Metrolina Greenhouse – Maria Taylor (Director, HR)

We were supposed to meet with Art the co-owner but he had to cancel so we met with Maria Taylor instead. Metrolina is not only a large-scale grower but also builds their own equipment and greenhouses and has various job postings including mechanics. They currently need over seven hundred growers.

c. Trane Technologies – Morgan Corbin (local office)

Our grant proposal has been submitted. We have met with their representative that will supply equipment for the lab.

d. Zach Gaddy – Metrolina Woodworking

Although there is a need for high-end mill work and woodworking Zach would not be able to help us scale up to offer this as a lab. He could only train one or two students at a time. This is a more difficult option for us to offer currently.

We will offer HVAC, tile, and masonry and we have partners to do those. We are still working on plumbing, electrical, and culinary partners. Jennifer feels we are getting close to having a welding partner.

5.) Marketing

- **Facebook Ads – April**

We have only had three additional submissions from our Facebook ads for April to date. The board agrees we will scale back to just a two week per month ad posting. The board feels the spring breaks this month contributed to the low total. We typically receive 10-11 submissions per month. Scaling up to 4 weeks per month of Facebook ads did not increase our total.

- **Student Interest/Enrollment-Totals to Date**

We currently have eighty-seven students on our interested student list.

We did receive our tablecloths, stationary, brochures, and brochure holders. The printers are currently re-printing our brochures due to an error on their end. We will distribute boxes filled with marketing material to the BOD next month. We are investigating billboard advertising cost.

6.) Construction Update

We are still on course for a May groundbreaking, Jennifer will reach out to Samet again.

7.) Financing Package Update

The financial package went on 4/20/22 and we should hear back from about five + banks regarding loan offers.

8.) Next Meeting

We need to stay focused on student enrollment, new board members, and getting the building construction started. Board members are having lots of meetings with potential partner/donors. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 19th at 6:45.**

9.) Motion: Motion to adjourn meeting. James Secunda: Motion to adjourn.

Marianna Sartin seconds the motion.

Motion Approved: Voted Yes: Jennifer Nichols, Marianna Sartin, and James Secunda.

10.) Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm