

**Aspire Trade High School BOD Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Boomerang Architecture

**Date:** May 24, 2023

**Time:** 9:45 am – 11:00 am

# In Attendance

# Board Chair – Jim Secunda

# Secretary – Derek Partee

# Board Member – Jennifer Nichols

# Treasurer -Lauren Nicholson

# Agenda Items

1. **Review and Approve April 18, 2023 Minutes**

**Motion:** Derek Partee: Motion to approve as written. Jim Secunda: Seconds the motion.

**Motion Approved:** Voted Yes: Jennifer Nichols, Derek Partee, Lauren Nicholson and Jim Secunda.

# Construction Update

# The entrance and exit to the parking lot has been paved, and they are paving the rest of the parking lot today. This is making a difference in how quickly the work is getting done, it is much easier for the construction workers to get in and out of the new parking lot. The building still needs to be closed in, the glass in the atrium section of the building has to be installed or a temporary cover put on. Once this is done, we can remove the moisture in the building and install the terrazzo floor. The garage doors for the classrooms have been ordered but have not arrived yet. We are behind schedule for some parts of the construction but still on track to get our initial Certificate of Occupancy on June 30th. We have two good people running the site now. Procore construction software, which is being used by our builders, wants to highlight our project and they are coming out to film on June 12. We are hoping to get them to donate their software to our school. The outside grading is continuing to go well, and the soil is being moved and spread flat over the area where the third building will be located. They will be fixing the roof on the building to make it resistant to 90mph winds and it will have a 20-year warranty.

# Student Enrollment Applications

# We had a big student push on Saturday. The students could pick up their yard signs (signs say future graduate ATHS) and tour the building. We had about 40 families and their students visit. We’re going host to more events and tours. Larry is delivering the rest of the students’ signs to their homes.

# We have 209 enrolled and 191 confirmed seats.

# Twenty-five percent of our students are girls. We’re getting about a student a day enrolling. We are past the 75% enrollment benchmark set by the state.

# RTO and E-rate documents to be voted on

1. **Motion:** Lauren Nicholson: Motion to approve *Contingency Plan – RTO.* Jennifer Nichols seconds the motion.

**Motion Approved:** Voted Yes: Jennifer Nichols, Derek Partee, Lauren Nicholson and Jim Secunda.

1. **Motion:** Derek Partee: Motion to approve board policy *Contingency Calendar - RTO.* Lauren Nicholson seconds the motion.

**Motion Approved:** Voted Yes: Jennifer Nichols, Derek Partee, Lauren Nicholson and Jim Secunda.

1. **Motion:** Lauren Nicholson: Motion to approve board policy *Internet Safety Policy - Erate*. Derek Partee seconds the motion.

**Motion Approved:** Voted Yes: Jennifer Nichols, Derek Partee, Lauren Nicholson and Jim Secunda.

The contingency plan is required by the state when your school is under construction. Our plan will move the start date back if we have too. We will still meet the required hours for the year. Erate brings us free internet each year and helped pay for the fibers installed out to the building. The Children’s Internet Protection Act requires we have this policy in place to qualify for Erate.

1. **Contracts Offered and Accepted**

We have hired our office manager and we are hiring two part-time teachers. The full-time teacher that will be teaching ½ Math and ½ Science this year accepted our offer. We do not have to pay benefits to part-time teachers. We are very impressed with the quality of our new hires. They are board certified and many hold advanced degrees. Our youngest teachers are dedicated and innovative. We recruited from local schools by emailing the teachers directly.

Jim Secunda wanted to know if we will have volunteers at our school. Jennifer responded that we will and our new office manager has experience managing volunteers. We will do background checks on all staff and volunteers. Our visitor system even runs its own background check of your name against offenders lists when you enter the building.

We are trying to consolidate costs and stay on budget. For example, one of the teachers will receive a stipend for driving the bus. Most of our students are coming from Huntersville. We have some clusters of students from Mooresville, Davidson/ Cornelius, as well as clusters from University Area, and Concord/Kannapolis. Our furthest student is from Crouse, NC. We have some students from the Matthews/Mint Hill and the Pineville area.

1. **Marketing**

We are having the students display their yard signs and post about the school on their social media to spread the word. We will host additional events at the school and let the families tour the school. We will invite the big networks to our ribbon cutting event. Derek will call Spectrum to do a story on us. Jennifer is interviewing with WCNC today.

* Our Facebook ads continue to run and we added a teacher recruitment ad into the rotation. Facebook followers increased from 437 to 459.
* Last 28 days - reach 85,156 estimated to have seen a post from us. 6,105 link click throughs last 28 days.
* Website

171 to 173 average visits per day, from 113 to 112 new visits per day average, 15,525 to 19,658 new visits (all time - total)

# Next meeting

# Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at Boomerang Design

# Motion: Motion to adjourn meeting. Jim Secunda : Motion to adjourn.

Lauren Nicholson seconds the motion.

**Motion Approved:** Voted Yes: Jennifer Nichols, Derek Partee, Lauren Nicholson, and Jim Secunda.