

**Aspire Trade High School BOD Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Aspire Trade High School

**Date:** November 21, 2023

**Time:** 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

# In Attendance

# Board Chair – Jim Secunda

# Secretary – Derek Partee

# Treasurer -Lauren Nicholson

# Board Member – Heidi Bertino-Daum

# Principal – Jennifer Nichols

# Assistant Principal – Marianna Parker

# Agenda Items

1. **Review and Approve October 19, 2023 Minutes**

**Motion:** Jim Secunda: Motion to approve as written. Lauren Nicholson: Seconds the motion.

**Motion Approved:** Voted Yes: Heidi Bertino-Daum, Derek Partee, Lauren Nicholson and Jim Secunda.

# Positive Parent Comments

# Parent Robin Rasnake – Her student is doing well and going to the fundraising event made him very happy. He is a special needs student and has had such a positive experience at the school.

# Donte Harris (School Counselor) – He feels the staff members are truly there to support their students and the school supports the students and teachers. The vocational and core subject teachers mesh well together. Our students represent the demographics of Mecklenburg County and we have a diverse student population. In other schools it was difficult to pull students out of class but in this school there is an open door policy and students can see him whenever they need support and counseling. This school is a great place to be. The staff that was replaced was replaced with new hires that are a great if not better fit.

# Two more families that attended the fundraising event expressed how impactful this school has been to their students. They wanted to express to the board how much this school means to their students. Their students are gaining confidence.

# Event reflection

# Jim Secunda – Unfortunately Beatties Ford Rd. was blocked due to a fire but Jennifer was able to reroute him to the event. It was a very nice event and the culinary students did a great job and hosted in the cafeteria very professionally. The building was decorated beautifully and Jim considers the event a slam dunk for Jennifer.

# Heidi – The student decorated Christmas trees were really good and it was a positive and encouraging event.

# Jennifer Nichols/Principal - The Christmas tree contest (each trade made one) was fun, exciting and creative. The students enjoyed creating the trees and the attendees loved seeing them. This event gave the trade instructors and students an opportunity to talk about their trade. Students were excited to share what they were learning. This event was good practice for us, we will soon have parents visiting on school tours. We will post pictures of the event on social media.

# CO update

# The punch list is still not completed. We are still waiting for the Trane harnesses for the roof. Trane came up with a work around and they have installed it. The fencing is almost complete and as soon as that is done, we should be able to have an inspection. We did have a roof leak in the kitchen and Samet will come out tomorrow to fix it.

# Student Enrollment – still enrolling

a) Confirmed seats = 196

b) Enrollment for 2023-2024 continues

We will end enrollment for this school year when the first semester ends.

c) 2024-2025 Lottery to begin December 1st.

1. **Staff Changes contract approval**
2. Math Instructor – Michael Griffin

He has been on our campus and has a great deal of experience. He will be using a well-researched math curriculum. Does the board approve our new hire?

**Motion:** Derek Partee: Motion to approve the hiring of Math teacher Mr. Gifford and approve his contract.

**Motion Approved:** Voted Yes: Heidi Bertino-Daum, Derek Partee, Jim Secunda and Lauren Nicholson

1. Assistant Principal hiring progress

We need to make a final decision and an offer. We will come back to the board with the details and an offer to approve once we finalize our decision. This is our last open position currently.

1. **Marketing**

The Facebook ads have ended. Facebook followers increased from 642 to 663. In the last 28 days our Facebook post reach was 4,211. The website has had (in the last 30 days) from 89.3 to 78.7 average visits per day, from 45.4 to 37.7 new visits per day average, from 38,472 to 39,751 new visits (total) all time.

Erin Schmitt has volunteered to be our social media poster and ATHS Instagram now has 260 followers. She is doing a great job!

Marianna Parker/ Assistant Principal feels we do not need to start an enrollment Facebook ad campaign at this time and the board agrees we will continue to wait and see how enrollment goes.

We have open houses scheduled for:

Tuesday, November 28th from 4:00-6:00 pm and Saturday, December 2nd from 10:00am-12:00pm. We will be adding more dates.

School Calendar update: Marianna handed out the proposed school calendar for 2024-2025 school year. We are following CMS’s calendar and we have the same start and end dates. Over winter break we will be closed for two weeks. We have some half days in January/June for exams. April 14-18th will be spring break, the same as CMS. We have 43/45 days per quarter. We meet the required school instruction days in hours. This is a draft we will continue to get feedback and then finalize it at our next meeting.

Our ATHS building has been nominated for an award in the education category by Dryvit. We are in the top three nominations.

1. **Schedule Next Meeting**

# Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2023 at 5:00 pm at ATHS.

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

Derek Partee seconds the motion.

**Motion Approved:** Voted Yes: Heidi Bertino-Daum, Derek Partee, and Jim Secunda.