

**Aspire Trade High School BOD Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Aspire Trade High School

**Date:** December 18, 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 November 21, 2023 Minutes**

**Motion:** Derek Partee: 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 – We were very positive about having our son attending this school. However, we have been disappointed with the teachers’ turnover.

# Parent – Robin Rasnake – She understands the teacher turnover concerns and has them too. However, teacher turnover is high at all schools right now. Behavioral concerns in some students continue to be an issue and teachers and administrators are working hard to address this.

# Parent – Agrees discipline is an issue at the school. If students don’t really want to be here, they need to leave to open a spot to a student that does. Could we hire someone to patrol the hallways to help with discipline issues? He agrees students don’t all have to be friends but he would like them all to get along with each other.

# Updated Lottery Process - board review and approval

# Please review the materials we have handed out to you. We have updated the admissions and lottery process for the 2024-2025 school year. We have a faster time frame to accept admission and return materials. This in order to open up spots for additional students quickly.

**Motion:** Derek Partee: Motion to approve the changes to the admissions and lottery process procedures. Heidi Bertino-Daum seconds the motion.

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

# 2024-2025 Proposed School Calendar

# The calendar follows the CMS calendar fairly closely with some deviations. We have 1086 hours of instruction via 161 full days and 10 half days for students. After receiving teacher feedback, we have made teacher workdays full days rather than having a half day morning for students and a half day teacher workday in the afternoon for teachers.

**Motion:** Heidi Bertino-Daum: Motion to approve the 2024-2025 school calendar. Jim Secunda seconds the motion.

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

# FAC – Donte’ Harris is serving as Staff Lead

# We have created a new way to help the teachers communicate concerns with the admin team. Each month the staff will identify issues they would like the admin team to look at. The teachers will make recommendations for solutions. Donte’ will present the issues/possible solutions at the staff meetings so that the admin team can make changes and solve the issues.

1. **Student Enrollment**
2. Confirmed Seats: 195
3. Enrollment for 2024-2025 continues.

Enrollment for 2024-2025 opened on December 1st.

1. **2024/2025 Lottery started December 1st.**
2. **Staff Changes and contract approval**
3. Ingrid Doehle – Assistant Principal

Contract was handed out for review. Ingrid is highly qualified and we would like her to begin February 1, 2024. Does the board approve our new hire?

**Motion:** Derek Partee: Motion to approve the hiring of Assistant Principal Ms. Doehle and approve her contract. Lauren Nicholson seconds the motion.

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

1. Brandon Barnett (FT – Social Studies) he is leaving to accept an AP position in Cleveland. Gave 30-day notice.
2. Claire Johnson (PT – English) she is leaving to accept a position in Cabarrus County.

We have people applying for these open positions. We have a teacher shortage of about 700 in Mecklenburg County and if you add in the surrounding counties we draw from we have about 1200 teacher shortages. We have to look at the teacher situation like a checkerboard. They take our teachers and we take theirs, but the issue is the shortage. Teachers are taking positions that are their best option. Brandon declined the job offer the first time; however, they kept coming back with offers and once he was offered AP he accepted . We need to recognize the next few years will be hard to retain teachers. Heidi stated that she has seen the same issues at both her daughters’ public schools. It is a big issue right now for all schools. Jennifer stated that the upside is we have had fantastic replacement instructors and we are fortunate to have an incredible staff.

1. **Marketing**
2. Instagram and Facebook – Do we want to do Facebook ads? We will revisit the issue in January. It is expensive but effective. We currently have 46 students in the lottery and will be having more open houses. Derek – is Facebook the best place to advertise – a lot of students are on Instagram. Please take time to follow our Instagram and Facebook – we have so much positive news to share and we would love you to see our students shine. We have recently posted our students of the month and it is a joy to see their happiness at being selected by their teachers!
3. Prospective Family Tour

We had a very well attended family tour on Saturday. Some of our students attended and did demonstrations for the visitors. The visiting families really enjoyed seeing the school. CMS is also letting us visit their schools to showcase our school as an option for students to attend.

1. **Schedule Next Meeting**

# Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 29, 2024 at 5:00 pm at ATHS.

# Motion: Motion to adjourn meeting. Lauren Nicholson: Motion to adjourn.

Derek Partee seconds the motion.

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