

**Aspire Trade High School BOD Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Aspire Trade High School

**Date:** February 26, 2024

**Time:** 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm

# In Attendance

# Board Chair – Jim Secunda

# Secretary – Derek Partee

# Board Member – Heidi Bertino-Daum

# Board Member – Jenny Miller

# Principal – Jennifer Nichols

# Assistant Principal – Marianna Parker

# Assistant Principal – Ingrid Doehle

# Donte Harris – School Counselor

# Agenda Items

1. **Review and Approve January 29, 2024 Minutes**

**Motion:** Heidi Bertino-Daum: Motion to approve as written. Jim Secunda: Seconds the motion.

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

# Positive Parent Comments – please keep comments to 2 minutes or less

# No parents in attendance.

# Mr. Harris reports that there are no issues that need to be brought to the board’s attention following the Parent/Faculty meeting. The issues were resolved in the 2/24 meeting.

# Board Vote on TSER’s (state retirement plan)

# We are currently enrolled in the state retirement plan provisionally. To join as a regular member, we the board to vote on it.

**Motion:** Derek Partee: The ATHS BOD hereby elects to commence full participation in the Teachers’ and State Employees’ Retirement System of North Carolina. Heidi Bertino-Daum seconds the motion.

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

1. **New Board Member Introduction**

Jenny Miller introduced herself to the board. She and her husband own Threadline Products, a custom metal fabrication shop. They have about 25 employees, 14 are welders and the others are front office staff. They bought the business 6 years ago and have been growing. Part of their company mission is helpling others: their employees, their community, and their industry. After attending a lot of industry events, trade schools became very important to them. They want high school students to know there are alternative routes besides college, with well-paying jobs available. They are very excited about partnering with ATHS and joining the board.

The board also wanted to introduce Ingrid Doehle, our new Vice Principal. Ingrid came to us highly recommended and she is very excited to be here. She has had a 20-year career at Kannapolis Schools, moving from 1st grade teacher, to ESL teacher, to Principal. She was an elementary school Principal at a high need Title 1 school and she introduced CTE at the elementary level. When Jennifer reached out it was perfect timing because Ms. Doehle is very excited to be working at a trade high school. Jennifer stated that Ms. Doehle will be working as the Director of Academics, working in the areas of teacher academic credentialing, teacher support, and student testing.

1. **Approval Staff Contract – English Instructor**

When we had some staff turnover we shifted a lot of the remaining open classes among existing teachers. We had an EC function gap and an English teacher need. Over 30% of our students are EC. Ms. Kiel went back to focusing on part-time EC and is no longer covering English. We hired a new teacher to teach English and Ms. Doehle will support her as she gets acclimated.

# Motion: Heidi Bertino-Daum: Motion to approve Madelyn’s contract. Derek Partee seconds the motion.

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

1. **Marketing for Student Enrollment 2024-2025**

a) Tours – we had 4 families visit on Saturday and another tour scheduled for Tuesday.

b) Current enrollment numbers – we are at 126 students for rising 9th graders.

c) Lottery - We will run the lottery on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 3:30.

We are approved to have a total of 363 students next year. We have 190 current students which gives us room to have a larger 9th grade class. We’re hoping to get to 170 9th graders. Even after the lottery runs, we will still be enrolling students. The current lottery students have 7 days to confirm their enrollment and 30 days to complete their paperwork. After that if we have not heard from them, they go on a waitlist.

# Student Enrollment

# Our current student enrollment is at 190 students. We are redoing our bus routes in order to be able to bus more kids. Our enrollment numbers are helped the more we can bus students. We have an open bus driver position paying $22 per hour. It is a part-time job and may be perfect for a retiree or someone looking well paid part-time work. Please spread the word about this position. Mr. Rivera is a back-up driver and Mr. Harris volunteered to also be a backup driver.

# Schedule March meeting

# Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2024 at 5:00 pm at ATHS.

# Motion: Motion to adjourn meeting. Heidi Bertino-Daum: Motion to adjourn.

Derek Partee seconds the motion. **Motion Approved:** Voted Yes: Heidi Bertino-Daum, Derek Partee, Jenny Miller and Jim Secunda.