**AURORA BORELIS CHARTER SCHOOL**

**ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Minutes**

**November 28, 2017 at 5:30p.m.**

(Work Session: Board members had a work session from 5:00-5:30.)

1. Welcome
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
      1. Present- Mr. Jackman, Mr. Klein, Mr. Strait, Mr. Sturman, Mr. Gordon

Mr. Wonser (6:00)

* + 1. Absent- None
  1. Introduction of Guests- Clint Montague, Dana McDonald, Anita LeDoux, Jenna & Derek Ratliff
  2. Approval of Minutes for October 24, 2017: Motion by Strait; seconded by Sturman
  3. Any additions to the Agenda- None
  4. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Gordon; seconded by Klein

Agenda:

1. PARENT COMMENTS: None
2. STAFF COMMENTS: None
3. PTC REPORT: Cody reported that the PTC chair gave him a report, and asked if the APC wanted the PTC chair to report in person or send a written report. All members agreed that a written report by the PTC would be enough at this point. Cody stated that the PTC vice-chair, Kristy Finch, had resigned from the PTC. That the PTC will have a booth at the School Performance this Thursday where parents can purchase yearbooks and meet the PTC members. He also stated that the PTC has had a positive impact on the school.
4. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Cody gave his written report to the board and briefly discussed the surveys that went out to parents, teachers, and community members for his evaluation that is being done by John O’Brian. He stated that he reminded everyone that they will have other opportunities to provide feedback about the administrator and the school in general at the end of the year when the APC sends out their survey.
5. BUILDING SECURITY UPDATE: Cody handed out a document entitled “Building Security Issues” that outlined everything the school has done since the October 24, 2017 APC meeting when numerous security concerns were raised. There was discussion about the various things on the document. Mr. Jackman asked Cody if there were any new security issues that have come up since the last APC meeting and Cody stated that there were no new issues at this point. Cody stated that KPBSD is looking at the possibility of installing “buzz-in” systems at all schools in the District and that once a decision was made we would move forward. Mr. Jackman and other members discussed the need to make sure all parents are aware of everything that has been done at the school. Cody stated he would e-mail a letter to all parents that outlined everything that has been done to improve the security of the building up to this point.
6. HIGH SCHOOL REPORT/DISCUSSION: Everyone was given the “Aurora Borealis Expansion Proposal” document that was created by the High School Committee. Each section of the document was discussed. Mr. Klein asked why the student max was listed as 20 and Cody explained that the actual number of students per grade would depend on the facility that was used and the actual number would be reflected in the Charter itself. Cody discussed the options of adding 9th & 10th grade at the same time to allow for enough students to cover the cost of adding two full time teachers. Mr. Jackman stated that BP might have a portable that they would want to sell really cheap or donate and he would get the contact information to Cody. Cody explained that the curriculum that would be adopted is the same that is currently being used by Peak to Peak Charter School in Colorado. The school shares our common philosophy of using Core Knowledge and focusing on high academic standards. The math curriculum would expand upon our current use of Saxon math classes. There was discussion by all board members about elective options and the need for ensuring students had a high quality education. Mr. Strait raised a concern about finding new teachers that would be able to continue the high quality of instruction. Cody stated that any new teachers would be trained using our effective teaching model (the Danielson model) and that they would also look at a mentor model in which new teachers would spend time with some of our teachers who have been at ABCS for years. There was a lengthy discussion by all members regarding the facility options for expansion. Cody mentioned that during a meeting with Mike Navarre earlier last month that the State might be looking at consolidating some schools that are not at full capacity. Some of those schools included Kenai Middle, KCHS, Alternative School, SOHI and Soldotna Prep. There was a lot of discussion about various options that might be available in the future.
7. ABCS SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: Everyone reviewed Aurora Borealis Charter School’s 2017-18 School Development Plan. Cody reviewed the overall plan and outlined the Strategy 1 & 2 goals for the school year. There was some discussion about the specifics of the goals. Cody mentioned that the goals would be a mid-year evaluation and an end of the year evaluation of the progress made on the two goals.
8. SPIRIT WEAR ON FRIDAYS: There was a discussion about the Booster Club selling t-shirts that had a ABCS logo on it. Cody reported that the PTC and a lot of parents would like students to be able to wear those shirts on some school days, maybe “Spirit Days” that were designated by the school. There were suggestions that included allowing students to wear them every Friday; only on early release days; one day a month; not at all during the day; and allowing the staff to just decide. Mr. Sturman made a motion that students would be able to wear the t-shirts bought from ABCS booster club the first Friday of every month, early release days, and any day approved by the principal. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
9. PARENT COMMENTS: Jenna stated that allowing students to wear the ABCS t-shirts every Friday might be too often. Dana McDonald stated that she has been to the High School Committee meetings and most of the APC meetings this year. At one point she felt discouraged about the progress of a high school, but now she feels like the school is on a good path now and moving forward. She appreciates the boards support for a high school and thanked the APC members for their efforts.
10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Vance- Thanked everyone for coming. Doug- No comment. Dave- Encouraged about the process of moving forward with a high school and is curious about how the meeting will go with the Charter School Committee. Jerry- Will be attending the meeting Dec. 4. Steve- No comment. Bruce- Was skeptical at the idea of expanding into a high school at the beginning, but now can see that progress has been made and that it could be a reality. Thanked all the guests for coming to the meeting.
11. NEXT MEETING DATE: January 23, 2018 @ 5:30
12. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Jackman made a motion to adjourn at 7:00pm, seconded by Mr. Gordon.