



Meeting of the Board of Directors of ARIZONA AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC.

Meeting Thursday, August 31st, 2023

4125 N. 14th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014

----- MINUTES -----

Board Members Present:

Ron Harrison, via virtual link

Keisha McKinnor, via virtual link

Paul Pucino, via virtual link

Amir Nizam, via virtual link; Left at 5:22pm

Kerrie Mallory-Thompson, via virtual link

Matthew Simon, via virtual link

Board Members Absent:

Ross Meyer

Others Present:

Diana Diaz-Harrison, Founder and Executive Director

Clark Crace, AZACS President

Annie Loftis, Executive Assistant

General Matters:

A quorum was determined to be present on the virtual zoom link. Keisha called the meeting to order at approximately 5:03 pm. Keisha called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ron made a 1st, Paul made a 2nd, all board members present were in favor and the agenda was approved.

Public Comment:

Keisha asked if there were any members of the public on the zoom virtual link or in person for comment. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Minutes:

Keisha asked if board members had reviewed the minutes from the July 27th, 2023 meeting and if there were any questions. Board members indicated they had reviewed the minutes and there were no questions or comments. Keisha called a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Paul made a 1st, Amir made a 2nd. All board members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

23–24 Online Curriculum Table Adoption:

Keisha then turned the meeting over to Diana and Clark. Clark explained that the 23–24 curriculum tables for AZACS Online are similar to the in-person campuses curriculum tables with the exception of some curriculum resources that work better in the online environment. Annie presented the Online Curriculum Tables on the screen and showed that ELA, math, social studies and science are proposing to adopt Bright Thinker which is an online curriculum platform. The online program also uses i-ready and MyPath, in alignment with the in-person schools. Nearpod tracks engagement, performance and progress of the students to ensure the Online Schools are tracking engagement for the engagement goals approved by the AZ State Board for Charter Schools. Rock by Rock, Generation Genius and ASU Prep Digital are other supplemental curriculum resources. The Online Functional Program uses Unique Learning SYstems, in alignment with the Functional Programs in the In-Person Campuses.

After the presentation Keisha asked for a motion to approve the Online School Curriculum Tables for the K-8 School and the Online High School for the 23–24 school year. Kerrie made a 1st, Paul made a 2nd. All board members were in favor and the AZACS Online Schools 23-24 Curriculum Tables were approved.

Updated School Calendars:

Keisha then moved to the updated school calendars and turned the meeting over to Diana. Diana turned it over to Annie who worked on updating the school calendars. Annie updated the board that October 9th 2023 is considered a federal holiday, Indigenous Peoples' Day. This was left off the calendars as an error for the Phoenix and Peoria campuses as well as the Tucson campus. This was because in previous years, the holiday fell during AZACS' fall break and this school year it fell during the extended school year session. The holiday had now been added to the calendar and all instructional minutes and 180 school days were accounted for.

After the discussion, Keisha asked the board for a motion to approve the Phoenix, West Valley and Tucson updated 23-24 school calendars reflecting the October 9th, 2023 holiday. Kerrie made a 1st, Amir made a 2nd. All board members were in favor and the updated 23-24 Phoenix, West Valley and Tucson School calendars were approved.

Real Estate Updates:

1430 Building:

Keisha then turned the meeting over to Diana to provide some real estate updates. Diana explained that AZACS closed on 1430 Indian School Rd. building on Monday, August 28. Planning and design work was underway for a Vocational, Entrepreneurial and Workforce Development Program that will have four community-facing businesses; a coffee shop, gaming and tech repair studio, retail shop and a shipping and receiving business. A construction timeline was in place with an estimated end date of June 2024.

Tucson Campus:

As of August 30 AZACS officially closed on the Tucson Campus. Diana expresses her thanks to Keisha, Ron, and Kerrie for attending a wonderful ribbon-cutting. She shared that there was great media and a number of happy family and community members in attendance. Ron also added a shout out to the AZACS lead team for a flawless ribbon-cutting. Matt asked if there was a wait list. Diana confirmed that there is a waitlist now in Tucson for certain grade levels. The official first instructional day at the Tucson Campus is September 1, 2023. Paul asked how many students will be attending the new Tucson upper campus and Diana shared the goal is 44 but can go to 50.

Executive Session:

Disclosure of Executive Session Per ARS § 38-431.03.

Keisha then moved to the Executive Session regarding a personnel and legal matter and asked for a motion to begin. Matt made 1st and Ron made 2nd. All board members present were in favor and the AZACS board entered into Executive Session at 5:23 PM.

After the discussion in executive session Keisha asked for a motion to close the Executive Session. Paul made a 1st, Ron made a 2nd. All board members present were in favor of ending the Executive Session. The AZACS board ended their Executive Session at 5:42PM.

Adjournment:

Since there were no additional items on the agenda and no other questions or comments, Keisha called for a motion to adjourn. Kerrie made a 1st, Paul made a 2nd. All board members were in favor of adjourning at 5:43 PM.