

Amana Academy Governance Board Meeting Minutes

Date: **July 30, 2020**

Start/End: 8:05 AM - 9:25 AM

Attendees: Chirstina Lennon, Keona Lewis, Doannie Tran, Kaamilah Chester, Misty Fernandez, Jack Murphy, Ali Elnajjar, Leslie Jensen-Link

Others: Ehab Jaleel, Cherisse Campbell, Helene Brown,, Kristi Davis, Niki Fox, Arelis Elfiky

- I. Introduction of board members
- II. New board candidates
 - A. Review of candidate slate
 - B. Minimum of 2-3 board members
 - C. Nomination of Chad Cunningham, Robert Berris, Ali Katoot, and Errol Williams by Zafar, seconded by Jack, motion approved.
 - D. Zafar will remain on the board for the next few months in order to facilitate the transition to new governance board chair.
- III. Overview of restart plan - universal remote to start.
 - A. Development of detailed plans for what it looks like if/when covid cases start to come down.
 - B. Amana not planning to follow Fulton county calendar Sept 8th date for starting to bring students into the building. Instead decision will be made that are appropriate for our school community.
 - C. Question around STEM and social studies at K-5, those subjects are integrated into ELA/Math. Point about ELA/Math being the typical focus due to assessments, but those will not be present for the year, so request to look at what will be most valuable for kids instead of looking at accountability through standardized testing.
 - D. Question as to if all students have equipment and access. Survey has happened and we are making equipment available for those who do not. Have reached out to community for support. At the moment, we believe we can cover them all.
 - E. Question as to survey results for F2F versus Virtual instruction for the year. 70% of parents wanted virtual.
 - F. Question about substitutes if teacher gets sick. Substitute bench is not deep, mitigation for that is ongoing. We do not have access to Fulton County's substitute list.
 - G. Question about if there are any plans to how Amana will address requests for class transfers to accommodate learning pods. For now, same transfer policy as always will be followed. School will not facilitate pod forming, that is an organic parent activity.
 - H. Question about special education population and if we have enough capacity to track those students that have left or are not responding in order to understand why and potentially address. Parent liaison and social worker are currently reaching out to those families who have not responded with personal phone calls. Going into the year, we have a team in place to help meet needs going forward.

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- I. Request to add middle school schedule to document so new parents know what that schedule is (instead of just referring to it as same as usual).
- J. Question about 1:1 learning or opportunities to check in with students particularly around those students who may have issues that teachers as mandatory reporters normally report and how we plan to address this.
- K. Question on nutrition and opportunities for students and delivering that to students. Looking to provide 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches per week where families can come and pick up or have a bus stop delivery to normal bus stops with the addition of one in south Fulton. Niki in talks with a company that does this and is approved vendor through Fulton County that could potentially help there.
- L. Discussion on what is driving the 70% virtual response from parents and what could be driving that.
- M. Question on grades given Dr. Looney's presentation, no change there for us.
- IV. Board retreat announcement coming soon
- V. Community Questions and Comments
 - A. Commendation from a parent to Amana as a whole for their work in education and care for students and family and how we rose to the occasion when we were thrown into remote instruction. Commendation for the 6th grade staff in particular.
 - B. Comment about universal digital tools and gratitude for standardization being put in place there. Also grateful for live instruction and opportunity to review recording for reinforcement. Ehab responded with noting a comprehensive communication for parents on Aug 1.
 - C. Gratitude from another parent for the job being done by Amana and appreciation for continued connection from Amana with parents and students.
- VI. Quick discussion on board meeting times going forward.