

Board Members: Kristina, Nada, Ehab, Mulhelm, Stephanie, Leslie, Sigmund, Abas, Zepher (not sure this is the right name?)

Other: Jose, Megan, Jessica

Next Board meeting will be a board work session, Oct 24, 8-9:30am

Recognitions:

Technology Assoc of Georgia

- 2 award nominations this year for 1) Middle school STEM and 2) Schools teaching other schools to do STEM
- Last year Amana was nominated for an award for STEM day
- This year doing STEMventure Day-1 Friday a month to bring other schools and members of the community

Grants to Green Award

- From the Community Foundation
- To help non profits become more green-energy/water consumption, specific to green facilities
- Would help Amana in the push toward becoming a Green Ribbon School
- Southface in Midtown would do an energy audit of Amana and provide recommendations
- Amana will draft a plan based on these recommendations and resubmit them to the Community Foundation for a matching donation grant to complete the proposed facilities fixes
- Timeline-Audit in Dec, Application submitted in March, Decision announced by April, Award given in July, then Amana has 1 year to spend the awarded amount
- Potentially use \$75,000 in facilities funding for this? Discussion of using portion (or all) of the funds from the sale of the plot

of land by bank. Fundraising for funds for matching to begin in March when application is submitted.

Teacher of the Year

- Presented to Ericka Winchell at whole school community circle; Chosen based on nominations from staff; Ms. Winchell's students have the highest social studies scores in all of Fulton County for the past 2 years; Admin still needs to nominate admin/staff award and business partner; Discussion of other opportunities for teacher recognition-GA Charter School Assoc? Northpoint Award?

Community Partnerships:

Ehab met with Peter Tokar who put him in touch with the head of the Alpharetta Technology Commission

Push for Green Ribbon School status by getting community support in Alpharetta

Amana to rally the tech community around a number of events in the next 12 months-plan?

10-20 co-op students (from all different universities) with the Kimberly Clarke program come to Amana on Tuesdays to help MS with STEM

Academic Form Approval:

Charter school 2016 annual report

Form discussed briefly, purpose, timelines, requirements, review time

Will be voted on at next board work meeting in Oct.

EL Workplan:

- Still working on some items for this workplan but it is near completion.
- Sets both multi-year goals and 2016-2017 goals

- 3 categories-Mastery of knowledge and skills, Character, High Quality Work
- 5 year process to become EL credentialed; Amana is still at least 2 years out from getting credentialed
- Bulk of what Amana gets from EL is PD, conferences, discounts on travel
- Sara Bodi is the new EL designer for Amana
- Question from Stephanie about ROI for the \$40,000 annual cost for the EL contract
 - EL is written into the charter and when Amana becomes EL credentialed we will be the only EL credentialed charter school in the state
 - EL also sets Amana apart as unique
- Education Committee to change direction initially thought to marketing EL so it's as easily understood as STEM-highlight exactly how EL benefits our school and students; Good connection back to Marketing Committee; Ehab response that this is an EL issue and needs to be addressed better by EL not just Amana; Leslie mentioned recent articles in media on EL education; Abbas idea that if Amana is proactive in this marketing it might jump us ahead in the EL credentialing process; Leslie raised a concern about the uniqueness of EL for teachers-EL PD is provided for teachers then they leave Amana, how can we remedy this loss of time/resources by better retention of teachers

Financials (Jose):

Total income of \$951,000 from Fulton County-Jose said that the net income number is good; Discussion about ratios and improvement of them; Improvements have been made over the past 2 years, digging out of a 2 year hole; Goal to improve days

cash on hand to closer to 15 by end of year; the fastest way to increase our reserve and spending is that 1) increase enrollment and 2) increase class size, have to decide what we are willing to give up as a trade off; Debt/service ratio is now about 1.0 for the first time

This year Fulton County paid out on the 6 day count, for Amana this was 730 students. Actual enrollment at 10 days was 741

Teacher Salaries:

- hired full time substitute this year, shows as an increase in this line item; Offset by savings for subs via Kelly Services contract; Question about time unused-can do payout to teachers? Might help line items for subs and teacher retention-further discussion needed; \$100,000 set aside for merit increases for teachers to offset Fulton County raise-Admin and key board members meeting this week to review compensation restructure for teachers/staff; Did not commit to bonuses in the Spring-will get numbers based on final approved budget

Discussion of budget items under fundraising:

- Set time to discuss with Mulham, develop mechanism to address fundraising budget; \$50,000 will cover EL and PD-this can be funded by the Annual Fund

Voting items:

Vote on audit-due Oct, not complete yet Voted to give Mulham approval to review and pass audit

Vote to approve budget with tweaks-approved

Vote to approve August financials-approved

Amana board statement of agreement needs signatures of all board members-papers distributed

Spring Break Trip:

- To Oman/UAE (Dubai); Partnering with Globus Travel for this; Will be 8 day trip over Spring Break; 24 people signed up with interest-cost is \$2000-2500/person; Hanna Arsalan will be staff member on the trip
- Voted to approve the trip

High School Committee Report:

- Dec is the earliest Amana can get approval from the county, an additional 2 months is needed for state approval; timeline will still allow for opening next Fall; Andrea/Fulton County is setting the bar high for both finances and academics
- State is coming in on Wed-will talk about possible pushback on these requirements since these goals are not realistic for a new school. Requirement will also impact k-8
- Need to fundraise for facilities to open in the Fall
- Open discussion to determine minimum needed to open in the Fall with just 9th grade-need 94 students to get minimum of 4 teachers

Fundraising Committee Report:

- Large active fundraising committee this year with 4 subcommittees
- Grants to Green goal \$100,000
- High school goal \$250,000
- Amana needs to get on the map, needs high impact to be competitive-to do this trying to get Michele Obama to come to Amana
- Banquet-keynote speaker, Dr. Neil Shulman-Emory School of Medicine; Banquet will be paid for through ticket sales and sponsorship-Marjac will not be able to sponsor the banquet again this year, still sponsoring Squawk and Walk; Banquet

will be March 4th; Board need to have their own testimonials ready to support fundraising efforts; Idea for each board member to take a table at the banquet to share their personal testimony; Idea to make banquet focused on TEDxAmanaAcademy-have TED participants at the banquet, students/alumni at the tables.