

Amana Academy Board

December 2, 2008 – Town Hall Meeting

Meeting Minutes

**In Attendance:** Amaris Obregon (Principal), Jelena Naim (Instructional Guide)

Board Members: Maher Budeir (chairman) Nada Diab, Samer Bashir, Lynn Hedgpeth, Pam Holloway, Tracy Blair, Maher Budeir, Zainab Abujebain

1. Board Announcements

- A. Budget Amendments – Postponed until Fulton County provides final figures.
- B. Proposed Policies – There are enough proposed policies, that there will be a special policy meeting held on Saturday, December 6 at 8:30am for policy discussion.
- C. Meetings with Staff
  - 1. During October Board meeting, the staff requested that a staff member be on the board as a nonvoting member. The staff should have a proposal for the process of elections soon.
  - 2. Board members will be meeting with staff once a month at the staff meeting and at other staff meetings.
- D. Facilities Committee
  - 1. The facility committee will meet this week with a consulting firm for long-range master planning.
  - 2. Actively looking for land and ideas for future facility.
  - 3. Renegotiating with landlords for more time on lease.
  - 4. The next facility committee meeting will be in December.
- E. Grant Writing – Andrea Cooper-Gatewood can no longer be the grant writer for Amana Academy. Jelena Naim will send out a job description for this position so that a replacement can be found as soon as possible.

2. Subjects for Public Comments

- A. Parent Drop-off in Morning – A survey for the Clean Air Campaign found that there is unhealthy idling during parent drop off in the morning. This is very unhealthy, especially for those staff members assisting the students during this time. Amaris asked for suggestions to solve this problem. The parents at the meeting did not like the idea of having to park and walk their children into the school in the morning.
- B. Adding New Board Members Per the Revised Charter – Maher explained the process of elections and encouraged participation from the parents.
- C. MAP Testing results – The results for the MAP testing done in October/November are now coming. They look very encouraging and the results can now be compared to last spring's results.

- D. SNAPGRADES – This new system will take the place of Power School. It is an online system which should be in place in the next few weeks. By January, it should be fully online. Lynn suggested some type of parent orientation or training class.
- E. Newsletters – as of January, there will no longer be one long newsletter. Every grade will issue its own newsletter every two weeks. This can be done through SnapGrades.
- F. Teacher/Staff/Parent Surveys – Maher encouraged participation of these online surveys. They help the board greatly to make better decisions since it is another piece of data to work with. Zainab emphasized that the surveys are very confidential – we only are aware of who participated in the survey. All answers are automatically put into a data bank. We only receive the cumulative data.
- G. Volunteering – There are some questions as to whether those volunteers who will not work on campus with the children need to go through the volunteer training and background checks.
- H. TAG – Amaris went through the prescreening process. Actual programs for the identified TAG students will start in August.