

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Type: Town Hall	March 26, 2015
Board Members Present: Crystal Canaday, Nada Diab, Kristina Leidner, Calvin Stamps, Michelle Engel	Recorder: Michelle Engel Start: 7:00 PM End: 10:15 PM

DISCUSSION TOPICS	ACTION ITEMS
<p>Open the Floor: Kristina Leidner Parents in attendance are asked to share their questions, comments, and concerns.</p> <p>Questions offered by parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Teacher retention for next school year? Ehab: Letters of Intent to be sent after May 15. II. Has the drive for better standardized test scores, introduction of Common Core, etc overwhelmed teachers? Is Expeditionary Learning getting lost? Ehab: EL has evolved. The implementation review is the score card of the EL Network. Amana has seen a 17% increase, and is leading the network. III. What is EL? What is the true difference between now and before? Ehab: Projects and programs now have to be tied to a learning target-has not always been the case. Precision is now the purpose-the targets are either state standard or Learning Target driven. IV. Parents show concern for too long a day for students. Question is lead by issue of some teachers canceling recess because of work not getting completed. The pressure the teachers are feeling may be influencing the stress of the children. Ehab and Board: Reminder that concerns should go to teachers first and follow normal flow of escalation. Also discussed that pressure is being felt across all schools and districts. It is reinforced that Admin understands and agrees with need for recess and time away from class. V. Is our charter too hard on students? When we outline in the charter to be 5% ahead of peer group, what does that mean? Ehab and Board: Charter schools must perform ahead of peer schools to maintain charter. Peer group is defined by local schools with same/similar percentage of free/reduced lunch. 	<p>Action: confirm with teachers real reasons for missing recess.</p>

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<p>VI. Concern for students that score above grade level not being taught above grade level.</p> <p>Group: Our curriculum does not call for progressive learning in which students are taught ahead or behind; instead our charter calls for students to be taught the same information in different manners to match their skillset.</p> <p>Discussion surrounds need for not just teachers to own teaching of the student, but TEACHER, ADMIN, STUDENT, and PARENT.</p> <p>VII. Concern about how drastic a change it is from 3rd to 4th. Is there something that can be done?</p> <p>Group: Discussion of potential parent group that can assist with transition? Discussion of a transition plan that could be implemented between 2nd-5th.</p> <p>VIII. School Zone signage and Traffic cops?</p> <p>Ehab: Investigation with Fulton County underway for potential light changes and/or Traffic cop on Alpharetta Hwy.</p> <p>IX. Safety in and outside of building?</p> <p>Ehab: Admin does regular walk arounds throughout the school day. Concerns about teenagers behind school need to be escalated so that everyone knows. Signs will be put up reminding people of Private Property.</p> <p>X. Any feedback about Gender Separation? Will it grow to the entire school, or cut back?</p> <p>Ehab and Group: Much research being done on how it is best being executed.</p> <p>Close Town Hall:</p> <p>**Short Executive Session to approve monthly financials and plan for off-site retreat.**</p>	

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