

Amana Governing Board

Strategic Planning/Long Term Committee Workshop

August 29, 2009

Present: Maher Budeir, Andrea Cooper-Gatewood, Lemiya Alexander, Nada Diab, Jelena Naim, Pam Holloway, Ehab Jaleel, Jeff Weiner, Samer Bashir, Linda Afani

The goal of this Strategic Planning Workshop is to finalize the one page draft document (see attached) that is to become Amana Academy's Five Year Strategic Plan – Amana Academy 2014 Vision.

Major discussions revolved around:

1. Purpose & Vision

- Discussion about focus “middle school” vs. “elementary school”?
- Discussion about Amana as a top suburban charter school

2. Learning

- Jelena added changes in the metrics section.
- Cynthia Lucas add ITBS scores – have we prepared the students for high school? Competitive Academic Teams as metrics
- Student recognition programs
- Technology – change wording
- K-16 Arabic program

3. Personnel

- Jelena added additions to the metrics section

4. Finances

- Jeff wants to add “individual” giving in addition to corporate and foundations
- Pam suggested make “create a comprehensive fund development plan”
- Andrea and Jeff question having “independent foundation” as a goal – maybe change to non-profit entity

5. Governance

- Board assessments
- Add “seek to align with a board model”

6. Campus

- Maher suggested to change last line to “minimize carbon footprint”
- Maher suggested to add making campus a recognized “LEED” school to bring publicity to school
- Change first priorities to “operational safety plan”
- Andrea suggested to change second priority to “complete campaign to obtain permanent facility”

Long Term Committee Discussion

1. Business and Finance Committee – Pam Holloway (see attached) – discussion surrounding parents being involved on this committee because of confidentiality.
2. Board Communications Committee – Andrea Cooper-Gatewood (see attached) – discussion that should add communications from outside sources such as Fulton County, etc. should be sent to director of this committee to be disseminated to board members and community.
 - Lemiya suggested creating specificity about board's role for communication vs. Executive Director's role.
3. Leadership – Maher Budeir (see attached)
 - Add bullet that says provide stewardship to the board
 - Concerns about making recommendations to leadership team without the consent of the board – is the forum = quorum?
4. Governance Committee – Nada Diab (see attached)
 - Can change to anyone can be on the committee because no confidentiality issues rather only procedural. Need to expand community involvement.
 - Add task: fine tune the bylaws
 - Add task: code of conduct
 - Accountability – surveys
 - Best practices Board – how do we learn from them

Comments should be sent to the whole board.

Added to agenda at last minute – Field Trips for 7th and 8th grade – voted ok.

- Concerns about number of trips per grade – parents may not be able to pay for them – however, if a calendar is set up then parents can budget. For this trip, parents with financial troubles are encouraged to discuss the matter with the teachers.
- We need to have an orientation and discipline procedures consistent and communicated to the parents and students. Jelena may have this already.

Board voted for executive session on Monday , August 31, 2009.