

Amana Academy Board Meeting

Saturday, January 24, 2009

9:30am – 11:30am

Present: Samer Bashir, Shuaib Hanief, Amaris Obregon, Maher Budeir, Pam Holloway, Nada Diab, Zainab Abujbein

**Highlight in Yellow – Action Items

**Red Writing = board decisions

1. Supporting School Administration

a. Principal's Report

1.) Summary of Fulton County decisions

- a.) \$50 Million shortfall
- b.) Increasing max size for Fulton County 20:2 (K) (1-3) 21:1 (4-5) 28:1
- c.) 300 Full Time teachers eliminated from system, no part time teachers renewed
- d.) 5 new schools being opened – will use this pool from above to staff these schools
- e.) No cuts to per pupil dollar amount for charter schools. Pam will make sure that this is accurate
- f.) No raises for teachers – but will allow for step increase for retirement purposes without pay increase
- g.) Governor recommending cutting of nurses across the state

2.) Enrollment Numbers

- a.) Kindergarten currently has 50 students but will increase since many will enroll later
- b.) K-3 numbers supports 3 teacher model
- c.) 4-5 numbers in question because of class size limits – decision about what will max size classes will be – also because of gender separation in 5th grade.

1.) Board Discussion and Decision

- 4th Grade – why are 20% not returning?
 - Board Decision – accept no more students and create a plan “B” now if too many students enroll in 4th grade next year. Will not wait until first day of school for this plan.
 - 5th Grade – 30 girls/16 boys – do we gender separate?
 - Board Decision – do not add another classroom. Can be revisited if there are enough new students later.
- d.) Underenrolled for middle school. Decisions to be made about how we staff and think unconventionally.

2. Financial Report – end up with \$150,000.00 to put into reserves for next year.

- a.) Board Decision – approved amended budget

3. Board Elections – Samer and Lynn’s board positions are up for reelection and 2 new positions are opened from new charter – board will be at 9 now.
 - a.) Need an election committee to run this election. **Nada will take the lead on the elections committee.**
 - b.) Staff nominations – haven’t heard from the staff about the process to choose the staff members to be representation on the board. Staff is responsible for determining the process as to how to choose staff representative on the board. After the process is presented to the board, decisions will be made. Right now Vicki Castro and Leslie Morrison are on the committee. Pam suggested that the term cycle does not have to be February-February. Maher suggested that it be May-May. J.J. Credi reminded the Board that the reason for having the staff member representative is to hear educational consultation since this is a consultative board and to improve communication between staff and board.

4. Fund Development
 - a.) Annual Fund – goal of April, 2009 to have Annual Fund – the goal will have to have money go towards next school year. J.J. Credi presented several events already occurring during month of April in order to promote the Annual Fund and expose communication and volunteered to help the crew with the communication. **Shuaib is leading the Annual Fund Committee. Must come up with a date, target, project, etc. as soon as possible.**
 - b.) Capital Campaign – Maher had met with individuals who want to help with this campaign. Sometime in the next few weeks, would like to organize a meeting with board members and experienced individuals who are currently not impacted by Amana. **Will have a date by the end of the week.** An agent is actively looking for all types of possibilities to be future home of Amana. Have 2 solid proposals for programming part of this process – how much acreage, etc.

5. Long Term Strategy
 - a.) IT Initiative
 - 1.) 1st phase has been successful – getting everything up and running for teachers and day to day administration. IT Specialist, Paul Holbrook, was praised by the teachers as being quick to respond to issues in technology and setting up classrooms.
 - 2.) 2nd phase is long term planning in terms of the students – website blogger identified and shall update and help with the website. How will technology best serve our student without having to purchase such expensive technology. Recruiting members of Amana community to help with this committee. Amana is now ready to look at the next 5 years – now that current problems are being taken care of daily. Maher and Shuaib tried to

recruit the teachers to be a part of the IT Crew even if to be on the mailing list and to give input. **Amaris will send out an AllStaff email to the staff to generate such interest.**

Announcements:

- a.) Vicky won Captain Planet Teacher of the Year Award
- b.) Shuaib asked how board communication with staff is now since two meetings ago. Feedback was positive especially since communication is improving with board attendance at staff meetings.