

Amana Academy Board Meeting

February 21, 2009

Present: Pam Holloway, Lynne Hedgepeth, Tracy Blair, Shuaib Hanief, Nada Diab, Zainab Abueljebain, Maher Budeir, Samer Bashir

Leadership Transition Team: Denise Klein, Gloria McLean, Leslie Morrison, Mary Locurto, Pat Thompson, Jelena Naim, Merry Herdt, Linda Afani, J.J. Credi, Karen Helz, Michelle Valerius, Colleen Jaffar, Lemiya Alexander

Board Announcements

1. School –Wide Survey
2. HR turned over to Jelena with consultation by Amaris
3. Rescheduling Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 25, 2009 @ 7:00pm
4. Shuaib announced the Annual Fund
5. Board Nominees will be here after the meeting for “meet and greet”

Transition Team Presentation – Presentation Attached to Minutes

Parent Questions:

1. How will discipline problems be handled? First by the teacher through Tribes, then to the Administrator who knows the children well and knows the discipline procedure for the particular age group. Any high level discipline procedures will go to Gloria and Jelena.
2. How will resources change – to make more kid friendly? – Depends on budget. This should be more maximized and efficient because the new third tier administrators can make better judgments about which resources are really needed. These resources can be determined during the time of the lesson plan. Teachers will now be able to be taught how to maximize resource use.
3. Teacher Looping – Jelena and administrator will take that into consideration. However, if a currently looping teacher becomes an administrator that teacher will not loop.
4. What will roles of specials and intervention be with new model? – intervention reports under Gloria. Specials report under Jelena. There will be changes as we grow.
5. Does this administrator fulfill the role of crew parent? – this person is an administrator with educational background. Has jobs of director of student services and director of instructional services.
6. Where will these positions be filled from? – Goal is to initially look from current staff. Especially because of the unique skill of designing expeditions.
7. Are there current schools willing to help implement this model? – Yes, High Meadows is one that can help. Atlanta Girls School as well. Expeditionary Schools who have gone through this model. All these schools will help.

8. List of schools and articles in support of this model –That can be given to the parents. This model does follow Best Practices. J.J. Credi even posted this proposed model to a group with 1000s of educators – not even questioned.
9. What is time or date that new administration will take place? In June – however transition will be ongoing once positions are named. There is no transition until the final decision on the model will be made. There will be ongoing training from now if someone is named so that they will be ready to go in June.
10. Communication to Community? – Emails, Amana Journal, Board Meetings, town hall meeting when a director is named.
11. How long will administrators hold their position? – 1 year contracts
12. Additional certification paid for? – Amana does not pay for additional certification.
13. How will jobs be advertised? – for third tier administrators – internally. Otherwise, not yet discussed by board.
14. Who will be responsible for policy formulation for next year? – Board is in charge of policy. Director will spear head policy making – to advise. Director will be nonvoting board member – secretary and will work with the community to propose policy.
15. Any dis/advantages for gender separate classes? – no but hopefully administrator will have “expertise” with this.
16. Networking? – yes, the teachers are presently in communication with external partners and groups.
17. Would “facilitator” be a more appropriate name? – Board in charge of naming the position.
18. Budget –how can this be funded – really need more realistic plan? – Pam’s main concern is this sustainable? YES - Other areas would be affected and other cuts – but this will be the lean year. But it is sustainable – may need to dip into reserves for capital expenditures. Director will make Amana more financially feasible in the future.
19. Music and afterschool models be incorporated in this model? – only leadership model being proposed right now.
20. Does Fulton County or State need to approve the model? - only the Board Governance model needs to be amended if changed not leadership model. The renewed charter allows us to make such changes. These meetings are being announced to Fulton County – are aware of what we are doing.

Board Discussion

Every board member gave a statement in support or against the plan.

Unanimous vote in favor