

Governance Board Meeting

May 18, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 8:01 am

Board Member attendees: Kristina Eisenhardt, Stephanie Dean, Sigmund Garrett, Zafar Khan, Maria E

Cherisse Campbell presented Executive/ Admin Business:

1. Initial Milestones performance vs. Fastbridge projections: Overall, all grades outperformed the Fastbridge predictors in the Milestones. There was consistently a 2 percentile increase in ELA by grade level, and a much higher gap (~60-90's on Fastbridge vs. ~88-100's on Milestones) on Math. The math increase is likely due to intervention steps that were taken mid-year.
2. Potential Student Grade Level Retentions down vs. Prior Year. Students have been advised for remediation, which will start on May 30, with a Milestones retake on June 18-19th. There is over a 50% reduction in 3rd and 5th grade for number of students vs. last year, and 8th grade stayed the same at 6 students with potential for retention.
3. EL Workplan Goals –
 - a. Knowledge/ Skills – outperform both the state and district in total overall proficiency for all tested students, including low income students. Goal: perform on par on Milestones and CCRPI with other North Fulton Schools.
 - b. Character:
 - i. Suspensions down by 70%, 67 days OSS this year vs. 222 days OSS last year.
 - ii. CSP Grant Researcher (from GA Tech) Feedback is positive.
 - iii. BELE EL Culture and character work.
 - c. High Quality Work – Maintaining Integrity of STEM certification
 - i. Better World Day
 - ii. Asked to present master class on our learning expeditions on EL
 - iii. HQWP coming at EOY Review June
4. AdvancED Re-Accreditation
5. EL Credentialing
6. Digging Deeper
 - a. Add'l Supports for Students (Add'l Counselor/ social work and “Director of Student Engagement”
 - b. Additional supports of staff through distributing coaching support
 - c. Maintain excellence in MS through PLC's
 - d. 5 Amana Veteran Teachers return
 - e. Math PLC – Reenvisioning MS Math
 - f. Low ES Turnover (5/24 teachers new to ES)
 - g. Illustrative Mathematics
 - h. And more!

Sewer Easement – for Vote:

Developer of property (called Villa Magnolia) adjoining Amana has asked permission to tap into our sewer line. This developer has also agreed to contribute money and resources to start Phase 1 of our cafeteria renovation. There is a contract that needs to be signed today (May 18th) as to the sewer approval, and a separate document that will be signed outlining the nature of the donation for the cafeteria.

Question was raised as to how we would be able to ensure compliance on the donation if we sign the sewer tap today. This is a good faith execution.

A vote was called, and the vote was unanimous.

Proposed Changes to the By-Laws –

1. Keep 15 members, yet remove the majority parents requirement
2. Freeze current board members until June 30th 2019 and add new people
3. Parents become ex officio members of the Board starting in July 1, 2019
4. Update bylaws to state the Board has ability to create an Advisory Council for the purpose of gaining broader perspective, community relations, strategic priorities, and feedback on ideas (section 3.07)

Concerns are expressed about excluding parents from the Board as voting members.

A vote was called:

Zafar Khan – approve

Maria E – approve

Sigmund Garrett – approve

Stephanie Dean – abstain

Kristina Eisenhardt – approve

Leslie Link – approve

Finance Review – Finances were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Sigmund Garrett departed at 9:08 am

Fundraising Proposal: Stephanie submitted a suggestion that we gather quotes for a feasibility study for fundraising that would be presented at the next board meeting in July. The board expressed verbal support to request quotes.

Community comment:

Shakira Milford – even with this year being very trying, there have been a lot of successes overall. I feel really good with where my kids are educationally leaving this school year. I was extremely impressed with the Celebration of Learning. Amana is definitely heading in the right place.

Staci Lewis: Agree. If a parent is passionate for their child's education, this is the right place. Leadership under Ms. Campbell and Ms. Rhodes especially has been able to pull together as a community. I am beyond happy with the school. As parents and Amana family, we should be ecstatic on the progress of the kids this year. Are there concerns? Yes, the sewage situation, and the replication are concerning. But overall, I'm committed and happy to be an Amana parent.

Elizabeth Warland: I'm proud of my son winning the Foreign Language competition. We have some challenges that are ahead of us, and if we are ahead of them, we will seize them and be successful.

Thad Gordon: The product of every school is not the board. It's the educators. Tipping point has come. Educators are leaving their passion and going into private business. What I'm sold on here are the teachers. As a board it is our responsibility to keep that narrative alive.

Jeremy Milford: Everything has been said. Our children are getting diversity, and learning about different ways of life. We are happy to have them in such a diverse school.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:24 am. The board stayed for Executive Session to discuss staffing.