

AMANA ACADEMY BOARD
MINUTES

Date: October 25, 2008

Time: 10:00am

Attendees: Amaris, Maher, Zainab, Nada, Lynn, Pam, Shuaib, Tracy, Samer

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Introduce New Board Member
 - A. Maher introduced Samer Bashir as the new Board Member to replace Tahir.
 - B. Samer's term will last until March 1, 2009.

2. International Day
 - A. Tracy discussed the International Day and thanked some of the businesses who gave donations for the silent auction.

GOVERNANCE:

1. Charter Renewal
 - A. **By email vote on October 1, 2008 the board members voted again regarding deleting the TAG waiver in the renewed charter. Laura Stowell expressed concern that the Fulton County legal team would raise issues that TAG is not officially a part of Amana Academy because it is considered a special need service that every child is legally entitled to. With this new information, the Board voted to delete the TAG waiver.
 - B. Maher officially announced that Amana Academy was renewed by the Fulton County Board for 5 more years (2009-2015)
 - C. Maher thanked everyone who assisted in the renewal process, including Andrea Cooper-Gatewood, Lemiya Alexander, and all the parents who submitted letters and spoke in support of Amana.
 - D. Several community members voiced concerned regarding the TAG issue. They were confused that at the September Board Meeting it was voted that TAG would not be a part of the renewed charter. Maher explained that Laura Stowell raised her concerns at the last minute and therefore an emergency email vote had to be taken since the renewal submission was due only a few hours later.
 - E. Maher promised to email the board's record of the email vote to anyone who requested it to show Board transparency.

2. Policy
 - A. The Board went through a first read about the policies concerning teacher dismissal and request of sick leave.
 - B. The policies will be posted on the website for public comment and will be voted on at the next board meeting.
3. Revisiting Board Goals and Individual Responsibilities
 - A. Maher reintroduced the Board Matrix showing each individual board member and his/her responsibilities and how some may overlap.

FUND DEVELOPMENT:

1. Grants
 - A. Andrea did not have anything to present this month,
 - B. Amaris explained that she was told the reason Amana did not receive the State Facility Grant was questions regarding what would be done with the money if not to build a facility immediately.
2. Fund Raising Training Plans
 - A. Shuaib attended a fund raising seminar.
 - B. Shuaib presented the slide show that was presented at the seminar which gave the Board great ideas on how to identify sources of funds and the method to obtain such funds.
3. Annual Fund
 - A. The presenter at the fund raising seminar recommended that the Annual Fund be a separate fund raiser from others and that given the state of the economy at this moment, the Annual Fund should be postponed until late winter/early spring.
 - B. Decision made by board to delay rollout of Annual Fund until Spring, 2009. Maher asked Board Member to step up and take the lead.

LONG TERM STRATEGY:

1. Facility Crew
 - A. Maher revealed that he was working with the City of Roswell to obtain a particular piece of land in order to build a new facility but that negotiations fell through because the owner of the property did not want to sell to Amana Academy at this time.
 - B. Maher stated that the focus of the facility crew is to make plans for this current Amana facility to become Green.
 - C. Maher stated that the facility crew also needs to start searching for alternative ideas for an Amana facility for the 2010 school year.
 - D. Maher will be forming a new facilities crew and asked everyone to nominate qualified and interested community members.

SUPPORTING SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION:

1. Principal's Report
 - A. Board reviewed and approved request for overnight out of town 5th grade field study.
 - B. Issues with increasing 5th grade to 4 classes gender separate next school year. There are several combinations that can be done including a non-gender separate class.
 - C. There are constitutional issues involving implementation of gender separate classes with no precedent. Should contact an attorney about the separate but equal issues involved.
 - D. Middle school max students will be 21 for 2009/2010 school year.
 - E. Fulton County may raise maximum class size because of state budget cuts.

2. Updated Budget
 - A. Board agreed to postpone vote until week of October 27.
 - B. **Vote taken electronically on same budget presented at board meeting with adjusted additional income of \$4000 from FCS. Vote approved with vote count 6-0-1.