

**Regular Governing Council Meeting Minutes
Aldo Leopold Charter School
August 10, 2023
5:30 PM**

Ritch Hall 410 West 10th Street/In Person or Via Zoom teleconference

**Join Zoom Meeting
<https://wnmu.zoom.us/j/88217395015>**

ALCS Mission: At Aldo Leopold Charter School, the human and natural environments serve as text and lab for learning through direct experience, inquiry, and stewardship.

ALCS Vision: Aldo Leopold Charter School graduates will use the skills, perspectives, and information they gain at school to enhance their own lives and to advance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Present – Hannah Wecks, Melissa Frost, Rita Montenegro, Deandra Medina, Jennifer Lepisko, Anthony Smith (via Zoom)

- I. Convene/ Roll Call – 5:32 P.M. – Present: Harry Browne, Jon Walker, Alexandra Tager, Aimee Parra (via zoom), Alex MacKenzie. Not Present: Sebastiano Marino**
- II. Reading of the Mission and Vision – Harry Browne and Alexandra Tager**
- III. Review of Meeting Minutes (action) – Motion to approve June minutes: Alexandra. 2nd: Harry. In favor: Harry, Jon, Aimee, Alex, and Alexandra. Motion to approve July Minutes as amended: Alexandra. In favor: Harry, Jon, Aimee, Alex, and Alexandra.**
- IV. Agenda Review (action) no additions - Motion to approve August Agenda: Alexandra. 2nd: Harry. In favor: Harry, Jon, Aimee, Alex, and Alexandra.**
- V. Public Comment - no members of the public are present.**

VI. Staff Report - Jennifer Lepisko and Rita Montenegro

- a. Jennifer: Head of athletics reported Backpack basecamp going quite well. The kids participated in orienteering, learned how to properly set up camp. The kids are going to go back to the site and learn the best practices when facing difficult scenarios.
- b. Rita: Noted the high degree of need this year at Aldo, with over 70 kids with IEPs. Actively looking for a new occupational therapist. There is currently one speech therapist working, and they hope to hire another soon, as well as a new social worker. Equity Council is going to make an announcement to the high school and middle school to encourage anyone who wants to join to do so.

VII. Student Council Report - no student council present.

VIII. Committee Reports - Aimee

Report from the **Policy Committee**:

1. Implementation of the cell phone policy: Teachers have emphasized the social and emotional benefits of not using cellphones at school. The student council will work to draft a new version of the policy, so that it is in the voice of the students.
2. Promotion and Acceleration of Students: Clarified the language, added data points and new assessments to make decisions acceleration and promotion.
3. Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy: Working to better align the student and parent handbook with the employee handbook. Adding the policy and the set consequences in the handbook in order to provide transparency to students and their parents.

VIII. Old Business:

- a. Committee assignments - Alexandra
Wants to finalize the committee assignments, which the council will return to. Asked Hannah to distribute the committee spreadsheet to GC.
- b. The Resource Development Committee discussion - Jon

The committee has a quorum, Jon suggests making the meetings open meetings so the 3 members can stay on the committee. Alexandra said that she would confirm 3 makes a quorum.

c. Discussion of new legal counsel - Harry

Called the two references who were able to recommend the lawyers. Asked the recommenders specifically about the timeliness of the counsel's responses, and they said that the lawyers were quite timely and responsive. Recommenders also noted that they had no concerns about the lawyers' understanding of education law - they were quite knowledgeable. Hannah noted that starting the school year without counsel was worrisome, so wanted to put in place some sort of stop gap measure.

X. New Business

a. Approval of the Strategic Plan:

i. Hannah: There are pieces that are done and pieces that are still in progress. She is working to ensure it is finished soon.

ii. Anthony: Discussed the implementation of the strategic plan.

b. Scheduling a Governing Council Training: The Public Charter Schools will provide a training for \$3,000. Alexandra will find out who runs the trainings.

XIII. Business Manager Report - Melissa

a. Discussion of SB9 and HB30 funding for next year. A letter needs to be written ASAP to request that Aldo is included in the wording of the ballot measure to ensure that Aldo continues to receive these funds. Melissa will write the letter to ask for the funding and Hannah will sign it.

XIV. Director's Report - Hannah

a. Discussed major areas of effort for the beginning of the school year:

i. Human Resources: Added another Special Ed aide, who works 1-on-1 with students with high needs; added tech support; identified 7 new substitute teachers.

ii. Facilities: Working on a facilities use agreement with Western.

- iii. Professional Learning: Completed a teacher retreat, where they talked about mission/development, completed CPR training, Suburban training, etc. There will be training in the future about Outdoor Ed, Math, Professional Boundaries, cultural awareness, etc.
- iv. Communication and outreach: many people attended the beginning of school orientation; discussed making commencement a requirement in order to show the students the excitement/ to provide them with a tangible goal; working on keeping the website up to date; went to the Conservation Voters of New Mexico, going to the PEC Meeting.
- v. Tech: attempting to get new computers for the school and new full-time tech staff person.
- vi. Student Concerns: Implemented an exit survey for students leaving the school - main feedback is students leaving school because of lack of sports.
- vii. Restorative Practices

XV: Governing Council Input - Harry discussed the number of children at Aldo in total and the number that will be receiving 1-on-1 aid.

XVI: Action Items

- a. Hiring of New Legal Council: Motion to approve: Harry, 2nd: Alexandra. Roll call vote. In favor: Jon, Aimee, Harry, Alex, and Alexandra
- b. Approving of Director's Goals: Motion to approve: Alexandra. Roll call vote. In favor: Jon, Aimee, Harry, Alex, and Alexandra.

XVII. Adjourn –Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 5:30pm.

Approved
AHS 9/14/23