

**Regular Governing Council Meeting Minutes**

**DRAFT** *Final*

**Aldo Leopold Charter School**

**January 14, 2021 5:30pm**

**Ritch Hall 410 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Via Zoom teleconference**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79569432742?pwd=U01aVUhmGtnTFZPSGg1aURRdkJEUT09>

**Meeting ID: 795 6943 2742**

**Passcode: NYP0Ne**

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.

Attendance: Wayne Sherwood, Andrea Sanchez, Harry Browne, Missy Brown, Hannah Weeks, Jamie Crockett, Maia Chaney, Margaret Begay, Ken Stone, AJ Sandoval, Max Higgs, Alexandra Tager

- I. Convene / roll call – 5:31 pm. Margaret Begay, Jamie Crockett, AJ Sandoval, Hannah Weeks, Max Higgs, Alexandra Tager.
- II. Reading of the Mission and Vision: Wayne Sherwood
- III. Review of Meeting Minutes (action): Motion to approve December Meeting Minutes – Margaret Begay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion – AJ Sandoval. All in favor – Hannah Weeks, Jamie Crockett, Max Higgs, Margaret Begay, AJ Sandoval
- IV. Agenda Review (action): Hannah – remove Student Council Report from agenda. Jamie – remove BAR 10 from agenda. Motion to approve change to agenda to remove student council report and remove BAR 10. – Margaret Begay, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion – Jamie Crockett. All in favor – AJ Sandoval, Hannah Weeks, Max Higgs, Margaret Begay, Jamie Crockett
- V. Public Comment: Missy Brown is a Trainer from the Public Education Department; Charter School Division is observing the Governing Council Meeting tonight. Missy introduced herself and explained the reason for the observation is to give the Board an outsider's look at the meetings and give feedback to help improve the meetings.
- VI. Student Council Report: none
- VII. Staff Report: Maia Chaney – ALCS has finished the first week of school back, with some changes made to the schedules. High School will have most of the core classes in the morning, and study hall and advisory in the afternoon. Middle School adjusted their schedule by making the day shorter.  
The students are excited about the new electives added to MS. Alison Phillips is teaching art. She made awesome fabric bags for each art student. Orien MacDonald is teaching Primitive Skills, Wendy Spurgeon is teaching Drama and an alumni Escher Bowers is teaching Aldo Live, making youtube videos.  
Today is Senior Retreat with Maddy Alfero and Jim McIntosh. Experiential Education Programs – Middle School Fridays will be online working on Passion Projects, students will do projects on what they are most

passionate about. High School is also preparing for projects. Community Orientation is rolling out an idea of entrepreneurship, called Co-Starters be led by Pete Rankin and Kori Wilken. Youth Conservation Corps and Internship is planning on starting up on January 22 online. Administration and Risk Management agreed to keep classes online until the state goes to a yellow category.

In December ALCS hosted a start up program to get donations for the Ella, Michael. Ella Scholarship, this will continue until April. Almost \$5000 has been raised to the \$15,000 goal.

Hannah – asked how it was going this semester and Maia felt the kids seemed excited to see their classmates. She also feels the staff is a bit more solid in figuring out the online classes.

VIII. Business Manager Report: Harry Browne – note: senior class paid for their own retreat treats. Will be sending the check register out earlier so GC Members will have a chance to better look it over. Questions on the check register report: Margaret – APIC for \$18,000? Wayne - A company that provides security, installation of the fire alarms in the middle school. Alexandra – Ryan Chaney? Contracted to help with compiling STARS data and other IT issues. We are saving half of what we were paying another contractor in previous years. Hannah – Ken Kuhne? Provided supplies for outdoor classroom improvements. Margaret – Money donations for \$7000? Harry - Some is from donations received by an anonymous donor and the rest is from SB-9: property taxes paid to the county and distributed directly to public schools. Max – Bithiah Hemphill? Harry - Our contracted school psychologist. Max – is it legal to have a state representative work for a school? Harry - Yes. Many legislators work for schools or other public bodies. Any conflicts of interest are addressed. Siah is an independent contractor.

BAR-09 is adding \$5184 to the IDEA-B fund, and we will use it to help pay for school psychologist. BAR-10 has not come in yet, \$68,500 from the Charter School Project Award. (Note from Harry: I misspoke. The amount will be \$65,800.) The legislative Session starts next week, The Legislative Finance Committee has budgeted nearly \$100 million to be awarded to schools who have lost enrollment. This will help districts much more than it will help charters. More details will be available at February's meeting. Next month a policy change for cash receipts will be sent to Governing Council for approval, it reverts to a one campus policy, with 3 days (formerly 5 to deposit cash less than \$500 as required by the PED. Max asked how to get on Pennies on the Dollar site on Amazon. Harry said we're already part of that program; he will send out a link.

Harry Browne announced that he is planning to retire the end of June. He will be greatly missed at ALCS.

IX. Committee Reports- GC Committees –

SAC: did not meet.

SHAC: did not meet.

Audit: did not meet.

Finance: did not meet.

Curriculum: did not meet

Facilities: did not meet.

Nominating: did not meet.

Policy: Discussed the change in cash receipt policy earlier.

Development: Discussed scholarship fund – the fundraiser will go on until April and the committee is working on showing the video of the prior recipients online to encourage more donations.

Risk Management: discussed the Red, green, and yellow COVID infection rate categories of our state; Grant County is still Red. A decision was made to keep Middle School Fridays online until the county is in the yellow category. YCC and Internship will remain online. Alexandra - Is there a contingency plan if we stay red? Wayne – a little bit of hope was given by the Secretary today, but still no date as to when secondary schools will start up at 50%. Elementary schools will start next week. Wayne’s hope is to start up by March.

Maddy - update on Experiential Education position – a survey was sent out regarding this position and needs direction on how to answer concerns and questions from the survey replies. There were many positive responses, but there were also a few very targeted responses. Maddy read a targeted response: “There have been at least two high profile incidents where the ALCS has allowed its students to be put at risk without appropriate review, safety processes and qualified supervision. It is my opinion that ALCS very much needs a bottom-up AND top down AND peer institution review of experiential learning programing, safety and compliance processes and procedures. This needs to include a public re-start of this component of the ALCS. Until this review and re-start happens, prospective parents and families like ours will always see this as a very large missing component of a school that progressively dares to offer an alternative experiential learning mode of education that is missing in much of public education. Until this analysis and review happens, many of us will always hesitate to send our kids to ALCS even though there are so many wonderful components of the school.”

Hannah – continue compiling information, this may just be an indication that PR is lacking and SAC could help in PR way. Maybe that will be another responsibility for the new EE position. Jamie – feels we should expect some uninformed feedback in a public survey, since some emotions still run high on the situation on the plane crash and the public don’t tend to attend these meetings and see how we’re improving. Alex – when should we expect the complete job description? Maddy is shooting for the job description to be ready by the next governing council meeting. Margaret, please give us this document before bringing it to the next meeting. Maddy - The new EE Director will meet and discuss decisions with Wayne, Wayne will make the ultimate decisions about trips. Wayne thinks having two people deciding on big trips is a good thing. Maddy – maybe the title “director” of Experiential Education is not the right title. Many suggestions were made. Alex – veto power? Maddy – it would be Wayne’s decision, depends on the individual’s qualifications. Wayne – depends on the level of risk for the event. Would have to communicate together on trips where risk is high.

**X. ZOOM BREAK (5 minutes) 6:33 pm – 6:40 pm**

XI. Maddy Alfero- Update on EE position was given under Risk Management.

XII. Director’s Report: Wayne – sent out COVID-19 test links to all staff members encouraging everyone to order the Vault Test that was sent by the state. The test is sent to each individual and a saliva specimen is sent back to the company, results are usually sent back quickly through e-mail. Out of ten staff tests, one came back positive with symptoms, one positive with no symptoms and the rest negative. Aldo has had only 3 positive tests in the last two months.

Students will be returning January 18<sup>th</sup> 5:1 this includes students with SATs, 504s and IEPs. High school will have 15 returning – but 30 are eligible, the Middle school, will have 10 returning, with 5 more students waiting to come in. MS needs more staffing before we can include more students. We are more prepared and organized this semester, there will be a contract the student and parent will sign before the student returns. This includes both parents and student understanding it will be closed campus to all students and they will remain in their pods of 5 all day. Wayne is currently working with PED to get more at-risk students back in school by our judgement without requiring an IEP.

Jamie – how is attendance after one week of school? Wayne - It seems to be better, the kids are excited to be back and are glad that we're taking their input and listening to them. Working on making sure all tardies are counted as a tardy and not as an absence it's a tech issue. Wants us to be more flexible and understanding to students getting in class late because tech issues happen at home. Hannah – teachers' vaccinations? Wayne - Teachers are listed in 1B category, which is next in line. Wayne has called to make sure our teachers were on the list as a public school teachers.

XIII. Governing Council Input: Hannah – asked Missy about trainings. Missy only has Hannah as having any training hours for this year. Max says he has done a training but is not on Missy's list. Ken Stone will be a new member and can start his training anytime. Missy shared a screen on where and how to sign up for training hours. These will have to be done by June 30,2021.

XIV. Old Business – none.

XV. New Business: Lottery dates – Wayne sent out a copy of lottery dates and explained they are one day different from last year's dates. ALCS will start accepting lottery forms January 22 and the first lottery will be February 12 and will have to be received by February 11 at 4:00 pm. There will only be 6 lottery dates again this year.

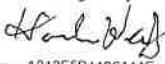
XVI. Action Items

- A. Lottery dates 2021-2022: Motion to approve lottery dates – Margaret Begay, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion – AJ Sandoval, all in favor – Hannah Wecks, Jamie Crockett, Max Higgs, Margaret Begay, AJ Sandoval
- B. Appoint new governing council member- Ken Stone: Margaret - asked for a bit of background from Ken, but he was having internet issues. Jamie gave a background description from his application. He has two children that graduated from Aido, he is a former Governing Council Member and parent of ALCS alums who had to resign due to family health issues and would like to serve as a member again. Was on the GC when Wayne was hired. Motion to appoint new governing council member Ken Stone – Jamie Crockett, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion – AJ Sandoval, all in favor – Hannah Wecks, Margaret Begay, Max Higgins, Jamie Crockett, AJ Sandoval.
- C. BAR 09 is to add \$5,184 to our budget for IDEA-B (Fund 24106): Motion to approve BAR 09 to add \$5,184 to fund 24106 – Jamie Crockett, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion – AJ Sandoval, all in favor – Hannah Wecks, Max Higgs, Margaret Begay, Jamie Crockett, AJ Sandoval.

Missy informed Governing council that every member can vote, even without training hours.

XVII. Adjourn - 7:14 pm - Motion to adjourn - Jamie Crockett, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion - Margaret Begay, all in favor - Max Higgs, Hannah Weeks, AJ Sandoval, Jamie Crockett, Margaret Begay. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 5:30pm.

Approved and finalized on 2/11/21  
by Hannah Weeks

DocuSigned by:  
  
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