

**Regular Governing Council Meeting DRAFT Minutes**  
**Aldo Leopold Charter School**  
**September 14, 2023**  
**5:30 PM**

**Ritch Hall 410 West 10<sup>th</sup> 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, Nathan Shay, Wayne Sherwood, Kevin Peterson, Rita Montenegro, Deandra Medina, and (via Zoom) Anthony Smith.

- I. Convene / Roll Call - 5:33pm - Present: Sebastiano Marino, Jon Walker, Harry Browne, Aimee Parra, Alexandra Tager. Not Present: Alex MacKenzie
- II. Reading of the Mission and Vision - Hannah Wecks
- III. Review of August Meeting Minutes (action) - Motion to approve the August minutes: Alexandra. 2nd: Jon. In favor: Sebastiano, Harry, Aimee, Jon, and Alexandra.
- IV. Agenda Review (action) - Motion to approve September Agenda: Jon. 2nd: Alexandra. In favor: Sebastiano, Harry, Aimee, Jon, and Alexandra.
- V. Public Comment – Nathan Shay, read and submitted document regarding concerns re: Strategic plan
- VI. Staff Report – Nathan Shay
  - a. Aldo’s art teacher, Allison Phillips, reported the visual arts program was a big hit at the Silver City pride festival. Steam roller printing on Saturday Oct. 7th. ALCS visual arts program was the selected nonprofit for the Silver City Round-Up co-op program for the month of August, receiving over \$1,000.
- VII. Student Council Report – Kevin Peterson
  - a. Noted failure of water filtration system during the recent backpacking trip.

- b. Dual enrollment communication needs improvement, noted a disconnect between Aldo and WNMU, with some students not able to participate because of scheduling conflicts. Requesting closer communication between the two entities.
- c. Requested more support for upperclassmen during college admissions process, specifically adequate counseling for students looking to pursue higher education.
- d. Noted a desire among advanced/gifted students for added AP classes in science and math

VIII. Committee reports: School Advisory Committee (SAC), School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), Audit, Finance, Curriculum, Policy, Development, Risk Management, Equity Council

**SAC:** Sebastiano – Discussed the upcoming picnic. **SHAC:** Has not met **Audit:** Harry- Opening conference on the 25th of September, closing conference set for October **Finance:** Has not met **Curriculum:** Both GC members were busy during the meeting, Aimee will reach out to her contact and report back about the meeting.

**Policy:** Aimee - Discussed the student and employee handbook regarding the bullying and sexual harassment policy. Student handbook received good feedback. Committee plans to add inclusive language regarding discrimination, specifically about gender identity and perceived gender identity becoming protected categories in the handbook. Committee is also planning on updating the employee handbook. Committee will review handbook in 25 page increments.

**Risk Management - Wayne and Hannah**

- a. Wayne – Reported on two committee meetings. During the first, the committee discussed backpacking routes, confirmed that the trips must have a leader that has already participated in Aldo Leopold backpacking trips before. Discussed gear allocation and water filters. During the second meeting, the same teachers had discussed what could be improved upon further.
- b. Hannah – Confirmed an order of 6 new water filtration systems and satellite texters. Alexandra suggested that the backpacking trip leader(s) create a pre-trip checklist to ensure the safety and adequacy of gear. Checklist to be given to Hannah for review and filing before each trip. Discussed improving the evacuation notification system.

**Equity Council – Rita Montenegro – Encouraged by the fact that kids of different educational, ethnic, and sexual-orientation backgrounds came. Working collaboratively to ensure that mission statement is most impactful for the students, teachers, and administration alike. All were encouraged to bring ideas for the meeting next week to finalize the statement.**

IX. Strategic Plan - Anthony Smith, input from Rita Montenegro + Deandra Medina

- a. Goal Manager reports: Rita Montenegro + Deandra Medina: Reports provided. Reported frustration with the strategic plan. Specifically discussed worries about not being listened to, about a lack of adequate communication among the administration and the teachers. Stressed importance of scheduling IEPs at times that worked well for staff. Desire for the staff to be integrated into the editing of the strategic plan.

- b. Anthony Smith: Reported on the readiness of the strategic plan. Plan will need GC approval as soon as proper amendments have been made. Will receive staff and GC input from Hannah. The plan will be revisited in March 2024 for its implementation the following school year.
- c. Hannah: Set October 6th as the final date for all staff and GC input and report to Dr. Smith.

X. Old Business:

- a. Committee assignments- revisited and finalized committee placements.  
Harry Browne to join Policy Committee

GC Training opportunities – Wayne – PCSNM offers GC trainings. Total cost for the training hours is \$4,750. GC receives training hours by attending 6 meetings with Wayne present as mentor. Kelly Callihan, also of the PCSNM, will review school policies/by laws, and provide templates for same as part of the fee.

XI. New Business - no new business.

XII. Business Manager Report- Business Manager not present

XIII. Director's Report - Hannah Weeks.

- a. Goal Manager Reports: Hired an MLSS Coordinator, hired a restorative practice coordinator, all job descriptions have been written in a similar format, and has provided job descriptions for all jobs. Working to publish and implement a hiring process document. Will share the document with the GC and with staff and ask for input.
- b. Updates:
  - i. Human Resources: Hired 5 certified substitute teachers and 3 finishing background checks.
  - ii. Achievement: ALDO was graded above the 75th percentile on the VISTA.
  - iii. Professional Learning: Met with two women who specialize in outdoor education to help better Aldo's trips. Provided information about how to access certain grants.
  - iv. Communication and Outreach: Picnic in two weeks. Will send an invitation soon.
  - v. Technology: All classrooms have a full set of chromebooks.
  - vi. Student Concerns: Analyzed exit surveys for children who have left. 3/4 students who left to go to Silver High did so because of sports.
  - vii. Stakeholder collaboration: Collaborating with Will Tracy, Director of the outdoor program at WNMU. Otto wrote a Title V grant about being a Hispanic serving institution and representation on campus. Working on creating an event with Western, Jose Gonzalez, and Aldo for outdoor equity.
  - viii. Student learning: Backpacking success, QR codes around the school for students to add pictures.
  - ix. Budget/Enrollment Growth Units: 197 students currently enrolled at Aldo.

IX. Governing Council Input – Alexandra requests GC respond to the emails in a timely manner.

X. Action Items: no action items

XI. **Adjourn –Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 5:30pm.**

*Af78 12/14/23*