

**Regular Governing Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Aldo Leopold Charter School**  
**November 9, 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/89498618468>

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 – Avery Jepson Browne, Hannah Wecks, Kevin Charles Peterson, Wayne Sherwood, Melissa Frost, Kathy Madrid, Anthony Smith (via Zoom), Rita Montgomery (via Zoom as of 6pm).

- I. Convene / roll call – 5:33 PM – Present: Sebastiano Marino, Jon Walker, Harry Browne, Alexander Mac Kenzie, Aimee Parra (via Zoom), Alexandra Tager (present as of 5:40).
- II. Reading of the Mission and Vision – Sebastiano Marino.
- III. Review of October Meeting Minutes (action) – Motion to approve the October Minutes: Sebastiano. 2nd: Alex M. In Favor: Jon, Harry, Sebastiano, Aimee, Alex M.
- IV. Agenda Review (action) – Motion to approve the November Agenda (with addition of PCSNM under Governing Council): Harry. 2nd: Alex M. In Favor: John, Harry, Sebastiano, Aimee, Alex M
- V. Public Comment – No members of the public are present.
- VI. Staff Report – Avery Jepson Brown
  - a. *Update from Cheryl:* Focusing on positive behavior support. Alli H is giving positive referrals, reaching out to parents when students are doing well. Tracking honor roll A and B: 56% of students are recognized for this. Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award given to a student at Aldo.
  - b. *Update from Catalina:* Internship Showcase Wednesday December 6th. Mural at the Clinton P. Anderson overlook on Hwy 15 in honor of Aldo Leopold and in celebration of 100 years. Garden crew is working on the botanical gardens. Trails

crew has made great improvements on the trail located just past the basketball court. Eco-monitors have installed wildlife cameras and are engaging in tracking. Made it to the next round of the Green Ribbon School Board and Aldo to expect a visit sometime before January. Catalina has trained 8 new substitute teachers and expects to train 3 more.

- c. *Update from Maya Chaney:* 2nd Camp Thunderbird trip went well. More manageable with half of the students. Concern in the middle school about having to make new experiential education plans because of bus malfunctions. Bringing on Wayne Sherwood as the Fleet Manager, who will remain in contact with Rodrigo.
- d. *Update from Avery Jepson Browne:* Kathy Whiteman says WNMU is offering Wilderness First Aid/Wilderness First Responder courses for \$680/person. There are 5 days in person and the rest online. Spirit Week went well. Working on 3 different restoration projects following the 30 by 30 Initiative. Avery is working with the Business Department on Experiential Education fund allocation.
- e. *Melissa:* Experiential Education total expenses are \$700,720, and \$299,280 is left of the award amount. Discussion about how to allocate adequate funds to teachers for the percentage of work they do that qualifies as Experimental Ed.

VII. Student Council report – Kevin Charles Peterson: Seniors went out on the New Mexico History trip. Came back with renewed connections and excitement. Freshman to be going on their Sonoran Sojourn next week.

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

**SAC** - Sebastiano – New items to sell at the store, QR codes around the school for students. Revisiting parent survey for next meeting.

**SHAC** – Didn't meet

**Audit** - Jon – Once the state auditor approves, then Melissa can report what findings they receive. Plan to resolve them and move forward.

**Finance** – no report

**Curriculum** – Hannah – Creating a graduate profile: who is our graduate? What are the skills and abilities we want them to have. These can be social/emotional/experiential.

**Policy** - Aimee – Staff and student handbook are reflective of each other. Discussed putting together an AI policy

**Risk Management** – High school safety classes for the kids. History trip + 9th grade trip to Tuscon. Preparing the risky behavior survey they are sending to students. Zach Tecca and who attended ALICE training and will train staff.

**Equity Council:** 85 responses to the survey so far. Plan on sharing results with the committee on 11/15.

IX. Strategic Plan

a. Goal Manager Reports

1. *Hannah:* Working to keep track of the school's data about dropout/graduation rate, math/reading/science proficiency, and attendance. In the process of implementing the SAT (Student Assistance Team Structure). Writing schedule into school calendar for the charter renewal (10/1/2024). Completed sub recruitment. Working with Melissa on writing a 3-year schedule for the Facility Projects; will begin this project in February.
2. *Melissa:* Using the \$520,000 fund to work on the aforementioned project. Melissa and Hannah will be dual managers of the project.
3. *Anthony:* There have been revisions to the Strategic Plan since August, especially in regards to the Special Ed Department due to faculty feedback. Melissa working to track budget-to-actual, monthly expenditures and fund balance over-time. GC to get a copy of the new staff orientation checklist. Cathy Gomez will be updating tasks. Will work on a communication document to go out to the public.

X. Business Manager Report – Melissa Frost

- a. Presentation of the monthly expenses for fiscal year 2024: \$3.7 million, ensuring that there is surplus.
- b. Discussion of the cash-balance audit; difference between the budget and the money on-hand in the bank; working on capturing accrued expenses and expenses pending.
- c. bank account register review

IX. Director's Report

a) Updates:

1. *Human Resources:* Searching for a replacement for a 6th grade teacher.
2. *Outreach:* Joined Prospectors meetings
3. *Professional Learning:* Restorative practice person from POMS came, Completed training of the Panorama survey and will be administering it to students on 12/6.
4. *Operations:* TCI audit completed, audit exit completed.
5. *Student Wellness:* School to sign a two year contract with Care Solace, which connects students, teachers, and staff to mental health services. Covid and Flu vaccines completed at the school on 11/9
6. *Stakeholder Collaboration:* Met with Dr. Shepard about parking. Hosted a luncheon for school leaders on 11/8- Siah discussed all-county professional learning for next November, which especially focused on trauma-informed care. Met with Dr. Neves of the School of Ed, to discuss ALDO's ongoing connection with Western; discussed teachers at ALDO enrolling at Western and finishing in a year and a half, work at ALDO could count as student-teaching.
7. *Advocacy:* Attended last LESC Study Group
8. *Student Learning:* Discussed Restoration projects and Camp Thunderbird

- X. Old Business:
- a) Risk Assessment Consulting Engagement- Hannah will reach out to Will Tracy.
  - b) Discussion of Director Evaluation: Wayne suggested using the PCSNM director evaluation tool, suggested setting goals for evaluation and creating a deadline for evaluation. GC to review the tool before the next meeting.
- XI. New business
- a) Reschedule Governing Council Working Sessions: GC decided topics of meetings had been already covered.
- XII. Governing Council Input
- a) PCSNM – Wayne Sherwood: Meeting tonight will count towards about two training hours. Kelly to do an audit of all of the policies (student handbook, faculty handbook, GC policies). Noted importance of synthesizing the Strategic Plan into a 1-2 page document for the public.
- XIII. Action Items:
- a) Approval of Strategic Plan (with the strike of the words “to meet” below “Vision” section) – Motion to Approve: Alexandra. 2nd: Sebastiano. In favor: Jon, Aimee, Harry, Alexandra, Sebastiano, Alex M.
  - b) Nomination and Approval of Governing Council Secretary: Alex M to step down as secretary. Jon nominates Harry Browne to take over the role of secretary. 2nd: Sebastiano. In favor: Jon, Aimee, Harry, Alexandra, Sebastiano, Alex M.
- XIV. **Adjourn –Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Date: Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 5:30pm.**

*A+ 78*  
*12/14/23*