

Regular Governing Council Meeting Minutes

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December 10, 2020 5:30pm

Ritch Hall 410 West 10th Street

Via Zoom teleconference and in person

Visit <https://www.aldocs.org/> for link and or phone number.

Ji Cut
Jamie Crockett
GC Secretary

ALCS Mission: At Aldo Leopold Charter School, the human and natural environment 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, economics, and environmental sustainability.

Attendance: Wayne Sherwood, Hannah Wecks, Andrea Sanchez, Ken Stone, AJ Sandoval, Jamie Crockett, Harry Browne, Max Higgs, Mark Martinez, Sterling Wecks, Alexandra Tegar (arrived at 5:34)

- I. Convene/roll call – 5:31 pm. Hannah Wecks, Max Higgs, AJ Sandoval, Jamie Crockett
- II. Reading of the Mission and Vision – Jamie Crockett
- III. Review of meeting minutes (action) – Hannah – did not get October meeting minutes approved. Max motioned to approve October minutes, Jamie seconded, all in favor. Max motioned to approve November minutes, Jamie seconded, all in favor.
*Alexandra joined meeting 5:34.
- IV. Agenda Review (action) – Wayne – after last BAR approval, add in a birthday toast to Hannah's 50th birthday. Jamie motioned to add toast to agenda, Max seconded, all in favor.
- V. Public Comment – Ken Stone introduced himself and stated he would like to be part of the Governing Council. Everyone welcomed Ken.
- VI. Student Council Report – Sterling Wecks – student council has done small things, all online. Before Thanksgiving Break, students were asked what they were thankful for, all their words were put into a program to make several word arts trees. This month students are making snowflakes, just because they are fun. Student council meets every Tuesday at lunch.
- VII. Staff Report – Mark Martinez – Internships and YCC continues online, students are making the best of it. The first internship showcase was hosted last week via Zoom, students were given the opportunity to comment and were very positive with their peers. Students are hoping to get back to school in person.
Alison Phillips' middle school and high school art classes are doing video art. Ivy Stephens Etheridge's logo was picked to put on our Aldo Leopold Charter School

website. The 2020 art show is virtual, a link will be sent to watch the show.
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75505762490?pwd=VEtYT0ticmgybkhMaFpXQjE4U2hCdz09>

CO is working on presentations for next Friday in Pete's class.

Mark feels students are resilient and are learning to adapt to the new way.

Jamie thanks Mark for adding a note about students being resilient.

Wayne added – the first field trip next month for Seniors, it will be virtual.

*Mark leaves meeting 5:45pm.

IX. Business Manager Report – Harry – there will be three BARS for action items.

BAR 06- SEG – State Equalization Guarantee – was reduced due to teachers' salaries being lower.

BAR 07- Title 1 – 2018 Federal Grant had money left over – would like to use this money to spend on supplies and materials for the homeless students in our school. Our social worker feels there is need for this to avoid dropping out of school, helping with mental health, food, and clothing. Alexandra asked if Wayne had a count on the number of homeless students in our school. Wayne explained we do not have an accurate count because McKinney Vento law has a new definition for homeless, any student that is not living at their primary residence is considered "homeless". Once a student is labeled homeless, the label sticks for the rest of the school year.

BAR 08- Public Schools Facility Authority – lease reimbursement. Receiving \$89,639, lease is \$120,000, ALCS will pay about \$30,000, which is about \$25,000 less than last year, in both buildings.

Check Register Report – Alex – what is Silver Bricks? Repaired a metal door that had been damaged last summer due to a wind incident.

Hannah – check to ALCS for \$112.00? Deductions from staff paychecks for lunches.

Max – NM Child Support? Deductions from an employee salary for child support.

Alex – check to Dave Chandler? Contracted to provide consultant services, Workforce based learning initiative, career training grant and YCC Grants.

X. Committee Reports-

SAC- did not meet.

SHAC-AJ – discussed school policy on LGBTQ related to Grant from Allison Henengan, staff needs training. Wayne – grant for the first 2-3 years was for a control group, no training for staff, just monitoring. Now the staff will be trained because we are now in the training group. We get a \$500 donation a year from this grant.

Audit – Harry – had exit conference with auditors, went well. Seems the same findings are same as in the past, persistent problem. The audit will be shared as soon as it is approved, it is being held up by the Cares Act money, there are four findings, none are severe.

Finance – did not meet.

Curriculum – meets next Wednesday.

Facilities – did not meet.

Nominating – Jamie – Ken Stone was interviewed for nomination to the Governing Council. He is a former GC member and comes highly recommended, has experience at the hospital in IT, and is a parent of ALCS alumni.

Policy – postponed until the first of the year. Waiting on PED to let us know when schools can return in person.

Development – Alexandra – had a kickoff event online for the Ella/Michael/Ella Scholarship fundraiser. So far, the event has raised, \$3845. Former graduates who have received the scholarship spoke at the event? Harry warned not to involve staff in the fund-raiser when the foundation is involved, causes audit issues. Another issue if the foundation contribution is too large to our school; the auditors charge an extra \$5000. Alexandra – asked what is too large? Harry has never been told, but so far, a donation of \$5000 or less has never triggered an issue.

Risk Management – Jamie volunteered to be on Risk Management in the future. Wayne – the meeting was mostly conversation that was COVID-19 related, and about returning to school safely. Every week 10% of our staff will have to be tested, whether online or working at the school, staff tested will be rotated. The test that will be used is the VAULT test. The goal is to get students back in the classroom, but we still don't know when that can happen. Maddy spoke about Risk Management Coordinator position that will be presented to the GC in January.

XI. Zoom Break 6:22pm

X11. Directors Report – Wayne – working on grades for students, some suggestions from the state are to change a zero grade into a 50%. Students with IEPs have a hard time functioning in a classroom, much less functioning online without in person support. Hannah – feels students are not failing, they are surviving a pandemic. Wayne – right now, 14 out of 15 students have an F, and 3 or 4 students IEPs are failing all classes. It seems unfair to fail students because of COVID-19. We have a high bar for passing, but we need to try to do the right thing for these kids. Worried about them re-enrolling next semester, want to prevent them from dropping out. Wants to make sure they and their parents feel it is worth it to stay in. NM has a state-wide failing rate of 60% right now. We are comparatively more stable, around 30%, and they are Special Ed students. ALCS has 43 Special ed Students, that is 26% of our student body, the national average is 11%. He is still waiting on PED to give him guidance. YCC will Start back the second week of January, as will the 5-1 in person at school. Max - can Wayne be empowered to make these decisions? Wayne – any return to school would be a calendar change and would need the approval of the GC.

X111. Governing Council Input – Hannah – new on agenda to aim for input/questions from the GC Members. Hannah – talked about evaluations. Jamie and Hannah had planned to conduct a director's eval twice yearly, at the end of each semester, when we improved the eval tool last spring in order to provide Wayne with more actionable feedback. We're only required to conduct it once annually and given the current circumstances, we felt that doing it again right now wouldn't be helpful. So it will be business as usual, it will go out at the end of the Spring Semester. Business training from Harry. Alex – is this in addition to the regular training? Hannah – wants to make that part of the onboarding training that will count for new member hours. Harry – we could pay Dave Chandler to help you develop that. Hannah – great.

XIV. Old Business – none

XV. New Business – Jamie Nominating Ken Stone as new Governing Council Member. Will be an action item on next meeting agenda.

XVI. Action Item

A. BAR 06 to reduce SEG by \$94,857. Max motioned to approve, AJ 2nd, all in favor.

B. BAR 07 to increase Title 1 by \$1,218.76. AJ motioned to approve, Jamie 2nd, all in favor.

C. BAR 08 to add \$89, 639 in lease payment reimbursement, Max motioned to approve, AJ 2nd all in favor.

Toast Hannah's birthday today.

XV11. Adjourn 6:58pm. AJ motioned to adjourn, Max 2nd, all in favor. Next regular meeting 12/14/2020 5:30.