

**Regular Governing Council Meeting Minutes**  
**-DRAFT**  
**Aldo Leopold Charter School**  
**October 8, 2020 5:30pm**  
**Ritch Hall 410 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Via Zoom teleconference and in person**  
**Visit <https://www.aldoes.org/> for link and or phone number.**

*Jan Gitt*  
*Jamie Crockett*  
*GC Secretary*

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, Allison Heneghan, Alexandra Tager, Jim McIntosh, Fiona Bailey, Sterling Wecks, Hannah Wecks, AJ Sandoval, Christa Osborn, Jamie Crockett

- I. Convene / roll call – 5:30pm. Hannah Wecks, AJ Sandoval, Jamie Crockett, Christa Osborn.  
Margaret Begay joined meeting at 5:36pm.
- II. Agenda Review – motion to approve Jamie, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christa, all in favor.
- III. Reading of the Mission and Vision – Read by Wayne.
- IV. Review of September Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve September Meeting Minutes Jamie, 2<sup>nd</sup> -Christa, all in favor.
- V. Public Comment – Allison Heneghan proposed our students participate in the CO.STARTERS Entrepreneur Program sponsored and funded by the Council of Governments through a USDA grant, which is offered to students in Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties. Pricilla Lucero has requested a form signed by the Governing Council Chairman and Secretary giving permission for our students to participate.  
Jamie- asked if there was a deadline. Alli- it will have a week or two to turn in.  
Jamie – is this only for ALCS students? Alli- Silver, Deming, Lordsburg, and Animas can participate.  
Jamie – where is the funding coming from? Alli – CO.STARTERS has an adult version called CORE. The youth program is called Generator. The money is from the Council of Govenors. Other schools are enrolling also. It's a 2 year grant. Is a nation-wide program with success in other communities, but its new to New Mexico, Alamagordo was the first in the state.  
Jamie – it fits with our mission. Alli – it'll be an opportunity for another work-based learning experience for students.  
Wayne – how many GC members need to sign? Alli – just the Chair and the Secretary is fine.
- VI. Student Council Report – Sterling Wecks – Student Council put on an online Talent Show live performance, which Maddy recorded if anyone would like to watch it. A Halloween pickup with Halloween goodies for students is being planned for the day before Halloween, will be distributed in paper bags and distributed around 4:30pm, of course with masks and social distancing.  
Wayne gave a big Thank You, to Sterling and the Student Council for the amazing job they are doing to keep the student bond going. Christa agrees and noted that this is a very creative way to communicate.

VII. Staff Report – Jim – Also echoes thanks to Student Council and Maddy for adding depth to these times. A survey was given to students on the 90-minute lunch and zoom or google meets asking how much class time they felt like they were losing. Average class time lost was 10% in the survey results, however only 54 students replied to the survey. At the end of this quarter's grades, students have either high grades or low grades, not in between. Students with IEPs are invited to work face to face at school, only about half the students come on a regular basis. Community Orientation has started coming to school on Fridays working in pods of 5 using masks and social distancing. Middle School is planning on starting Fridays outdoors after Fall Break. SHAC is working Health Passports to encourage students to go outdoors with treasure hunts and other activities. Also, a virtual Parents night is planned for November with professionals in the community joining the meeting to speak about depression, anxiety, and any other issue parents may feel they need advice on confronting the pandemic.

SHAC is following up on the Director of Experiential Education timeline for the year. Hannah asked to send out a copy the timeline.

\*Note – Jim leaves meeting.

Fiona - Attendance policy- ALCS has been tasked with creating an attendance policy, which must be put in place due to the Yazzie Martinez Lawsuit. If school is in session, how are students' needs being met while virtual. Four tiers or levels are required according to percent of class time absent: (these percentages are hard to calculate because they move as the year progresses)

- 1) Make sure students have access internet, working computers and lesson.
  - Incentives to help students feel more comfortable, which will more likely make them want to attend.
- 2) Missing more than 5%-10% of daily classes
  - Phone calls home and documenting communication
- 3) Missing more than 10% -20% of daily classes
  - teachers planning to meet with parents and students
- 4) 20% or more – getting CYFD involved.

State has given a workshop and some guidance but help with suggestions on how to gather data and track all interventions and communication and stay positive would be appreciated. Asked for a template but got no response. The policy is past due and must be approved by Governing Council. This policy is to help students not to have a negative effect on students. Hannah asked if being past due was going to hurt ALCS. Wayne has submitted to the PED, but policy still must be approved. Margaret asked how we were determining absences during this time. Fiona – even if they are not showing up for some classes, whether they are late or absent, but are passing classes it may not be an attendance problem. Staff are not in agreement about if incentives alone are the best strategy to motivate. This policy is in the beginning stages and is a working document. Document shared.

VIII. Business Manager Report – Harry – Check Register Report questions: Hannah – why are we paying the Prospectors – Wayne is a member and this is a 200-1 cost ratio, being a member help ALCS receive money and it helps having our name out there.

Jamie – does Wayne being a member make ALCS a member? Yes

Christa – what is CliftonLarsonAllen? This is our auditors

Hannah – NWEA, was under the impression the school no longer does MAPS testing. Testing must be done on all students with an IEP. Fiona noted that MAPS are also given to middle school students, provides academic tracking, connects to Kahn Academy, special ed data. The free version only applies to middle school, this is the lowest rate available.

Christa – \$12,000 to WNMU – is that for rent? Yes, ten months at \$12,000 and two months free.

Margaret – MPS? Bedford Freeman is the parent company, two of our teachers buy textbooks from them.

W.H. Sadlier? Emily Aversa purchased for online teaching.

Hannah – NM Child Support? Money owed by law from an employee for child support is taken out of paycheck automatically and sent to child support.

BAR request 04 – \$16,000 for next generation career and technology education. This is the second grant Dave Chandler and Allison Heneghan has gotten for our school.

Jamie – this is different from what Alli spoke about earlier?

Harry – yes, both grants are geared toward career training, but this is different.

Hannah – what will the money be used for?

Wayne – Developing programs like others out there that get kids trained for and ready for work right out of High School, like the fire-fighting training that Christa is involved in. Christa – the Forest Service is collaborating with Kathy Whiteman at Western to train kids for Firefighting.

Harry – Good news! As per Matt Pahl revised upward revenues for the year, we may get funded for same amount as current year.

IX. Committee Reports- GC Committees – SAC- meeting moved to third Wednesday of month, will meet later this month

SHAC – AJ – Jim covered the passports and Experiential Ed Director position. Also, sun exposer guidelines, using sunscreen and hats. If this is turned into a policy, a grant can be used to have more shade for the students: more trees and construction built shading areas. Harry – is there also discussion about studies suggesting sun exposure could help with the Corona Virus. AJ – yes about general health benefits of sun exposure, but not COVID specific.

Audit – Harry – had an internal audit call. Almost done with all requests from PED, but haven't been asked to schedule committee meeting yet.

Finance – Harry – normally meet in October, will meet on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Curriculum – Margaret – sent out a survey on what would be better suited for the school, discussed Advisory period, how this is beneficial to students. Sill working on this, sending out to staff for follow-up.

Facilities – Wayne – no formal meeting. Got bids on sidewalk – quote was way over what was anticipated. Considering asking Western to split the cost, or sending out again to different contractors. Bathroom and emergency exit are done.

Nominating - Hannah – there was no response to any of the letters reaching out to the community for members. Very disappointing. Jamie – considering making some follow up calls. Hannah introduced Alex Tager who is

has applied to for Governing Council membership. Alex has a middle schooler who attends ALCS and feels like this would be a great way to be involved and put extra energy into. Her background includes – fundraising, politics, nonprofits, event planning, Arts Council (helped plan Bluesfest event) and is currently employed by WNMU in Cultural Affairs. She would love to bring a concert to ALCS virtually. Alex has lived in Silver City for 14 years and is from New York.

Policy- could not proceed without Attendance policy information. Wayne will send now

Development – will meet October 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30

Risk Management – Jim discussed a lot in his staff report, focus is on Director of Experiential Ed Position development and annual list of risky behaviors. Asking professional to join parent’s night to discuss depression and other mental health topics of concern.

X. **ZOOM BREAK (5 minutes) at 6:37**

Return attendance: Hannah, Christa, Wayne, Harry, Alex, Margaret, Fiona, Jamie

XI. Directors Report – Wayne – all schools can have students with IEPs in the building – not at-risk students yet, but there’s no consensus definition of “at risk” from PED secretary yet. We cannot use just failing as “at risk,” we can only bring back 5-1 in building. High School has a maximum of 12 students and average about 8. Middle school has maximum of 8 and average about 5 students, allowing some students with 504s. The students coming back to the school on Fridays are Community Orientation, YCC and Middle School will be coming in three groups for 3-hour hikes. YCC will be here all day on Fridays and CO will be here for three hours, Fiona- a Parents Survey about Fridays was sent out. Garrett, Jennifer, and Fiona will take out seven students in each group with Jamie Thompson as support.

Grades are due Monday after Fall Break; we will be mailing out grades this year.

XII. Old Business - none

XIII. New Business

A. Resolution for CO.STARTERS – Wayne sent out email from Allison Heneghan, Christa read document needed to be signed for Priscilla Lucero. This will be done after fall break.

XIV. Action Items

A. Attendance Policy- motion to accept Attendance Policy as a working document and a work in progress by Christa, 2<sup>nd</sup>- Jamie, all in favor.

B. BAR04- Next Gen CTE- \$16,000 – Motion to pass BAR 04 by Margaret, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christa, all in favor.

C. Appoint new governing council member (Alex Tager) – motion to appoint Alexandra Tager as new Governing Council Member by Jamie, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Christa, all in favor

Wayne and Harry will help set up for her 10 hours of training, ALCS email address and her one on one financial training with Harry. Margaret and Max will also need this training with Harry.

\*note: AJ returns

D. Resolution for CO.STARTERS – motion to accept Resolution for CO.STARTERS by Christa, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Jamie, all in favor

XV. **Adjourn – 7:01 Motion to adjourn – Margaret, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Christa, all in favor**

**Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 5:30pm.**