

**AFSA K-12**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**K-8 Cafeteria**  
**MAR 28, 2023**  
**4:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Board Members Present:** Katie Crowley, David Smith, Jodi Stumpner, Jessica Goodwin, Kate Plaisance, Brady Jones, Julie Cox

**Board Member Arrived at 4:25pm:** Melissa DeGidio

**Board Members Absent:** Gerard Cramer

**Others Present:** Becky Meyer, Erik Bruner-Wiltse, Carrie Reid

**A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS:**

1. Call to Order: Board Chair Kate Plaisance called the work session to order at 4:06 pm.

**B. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Proposed Structure:** The new proposed structure was presented with the detailed executive team's thought process behind the changes. This included enrollment numbers at both K-8 and the High School with 420 enrolled as of now for the 2023-24 school year. The financial statements were reviewed with the concern of the fund balance and the proposed structure was presented to remove two administrative positions and use those funds to cover new office support and behavior specialist positions. The goal of the new structure is to increase the school's fund balance and cover additional staff needed in other areas.

Discussion included the way positions were funded by Special Education Funds, ADSIS, Grants, and the AFSA General Fund monies received from the Federal Government per student enrolled.

2. **Election update:** Julie Cox updated the board with the five parents that showed interest in the one parent board open position. Bio's were received by two of the five and the deadline will be Thursday, March 30th, 2023. Two teacher applicants (Katie Crowley/Kerry Schulte) for the one teacher open position and Kate Plaisance's information were received for the one community candidate position. The election form to be completed for voting starting May 15, 2023.

3. **Review Template for Strategic Plan tasks:** Moved to next work session in April.

**B. ADJOURN:** The work session was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

**Finance Committee meeting 3:30 pm K8 business office**  
**Regular board meeting to begin at 5:00 pm in K8 Cafeteria**

**AFSA K-12**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING Minutes**  
**K-8 Cafeteria**

**March 28, 2023**

**5:00 - 6:30 pm**

**Board Members Present:** Katie Crowley, David Smith, Melissa DeGidio, Jodi Stumpner, Jessica Goodwin, Brady Jones, Julie Cox, Kate Plaisance

**Board Members Absent:** Gerard Cramer

**Others Present:** Becky Meyer, Erik Bruner-Wiltse, Carrie Reid

**A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

1. Call to Order Board Chair Kate Plaisance called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm
  - a. **Mission:** The Academy for Sciences and Agriculture (AFSA), a public charter school for grades K-12, engages learners in academically rigorous, student-centered, hands-on experiences and leadership opportunities within a science, environmental education, and agricultural context.
  - b. **Vision:** AFSA will develop lifelong learners who are curious, care for others and have high skill levels in applied sciences, and will be prepared for a future in a diverse, global and changing society
  - c. **Honoring Native Peoples:** We would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Dakota People, and pay our respect to elders both past and present.
2. Determination of Quorum (5 members minimum): A quorum was determined.
3. Approve Agenda: A motion to approve the March 28th, 2023 agenda as presented was made by Katie Crowley. Melissa DeGidio seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. Determination of Conflict of Interest: No conflict of interest was determined to be present.
5. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the February 2023 Board minutes as presented by Brady Jones. Julie Cox seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
6. Approval of Financial Report: Erik Bruner-Wiltse presented the Financial Report. A motion was made to approve the Financial Report, payment of invoices and acceptance

of gifts as presented by David Smith. Melissa DeGidio seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **B. GUEST COMMENTS**

Guest teachers included Kate Bald, Haley Leiding, Cami Veldhuizen, Sarah Muellner, and Andrew Smith. Each teacher spoke for three minutes on their concern in regard to the proposed organization structure eliminating two administrative positions. Signed letters were submitted to the board in reference to Luba Vanyo's employment at AFSA. Concerns about the impact of the staff changes on students and teachers was discussed.

## **C. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Administrative Reports: Becky Meyer shared a short video on the Staff Cake Wars Staff Workshop Team Building activity held on Friday March 10th, 2023.

Becky Meyer updated the board on the AIPAC Committee (American Indian Parent Advisory Committee). AFSA has 4 parents interested in meeting, to be scheduled in April 2023.

2. School Activities Reports:

### **Erik Bruner-Wiltse presented for AFSA K-8**

#### Academics:

- Spring Break return was the start of Trimester 3. Students changed specialists and have new schedules for the remainder of the year.
- J-term plans for 5th-8th grade will be sent home March 29th. K-4th grades will have special units and schedules that will be sent out in May.
- MCA Testing starts April 3rd and runs through May 3rd.
- Access testing for ELL students was completed on time by March 24th.

#### Community:

- Presentation Night and Open House was held on Thursday March 9th, 2023.

#### Mission:

- Field Trips this month included: the Circus, Feed my Starving Children, Gibbs Farm, Bowling, MN Landscape Arboretum, Library visit, and parks for outdoor science activities.
- Ms. Vennes class is in the lead for March soar slips, to win an hour of gym time at the High School.
- The February Challenge was met by filing our bookshelf, and students received hot cocoa.

#### Enrollment:

- 53 New students registered for 2023-24, putting the district total at 420 students as of now.
- Kindergarten Round Up is being held Thursday March 30th, 2023.

### **Erik Bruner-Wiltse presented for AFSA High School.**

#### Clubs and Extracurricular Activities:

- (Osprey Wilds Goal 1:1) March 22, 2023 - 12 NHS members took over 40 5th and 6th grade students to Feed My Starving Children (Total of 138 hours volunteered)
- Baseball, Softball, and Track practice has begun.

#### School Culture and Community:

- March 8th - Charter School Day at the Capitol. Students were able to sit in on committee meetings in the senate and meet with state senators and representatives. Students promoted

funding issues relevant to charter schools and discussed their positive experiences attending a charter school.

- Monday March 27th, 2023 High School College and Career Fair Day was attended by all grades. 19 representatives from post-secondary schools attended. Positive feedback was received from representatives on student participation at the fair.

#### Academics:

- Third trimester is underway.
- March 9th, 2023 State Agriscience Fair - 38 students moving on to the next round of evaluations. Finalists to be announced at the state FFA convention April 23-25th.
- (ELP Goal 3.2) - Trimester 2 World History students completed their "unintended consequences" projects about environmental effects on European expansion and colonization. Students who completed the project earned an average of 85%.

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#### Enrollment:

- Current AFSA High School total enrollment is 168 students.

### 3. Committee Reports: None

## D. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Osprey Wilds Site Visit Feedback: Osprey Wilds visit in February 2023 feedback required no specific actions to be taken by AFSA. They commented on the AFSA mission and vision being evident while walking through both buildings. They observed high quality instruction with teachers aware of where students were in their understanding of a lesson. Interviews with parents and students included that they enjoyed small classroom sizes and the community environment at AFSA

## E. ACTION ITEMS

### 1. Salaries for FY 24:

- A motion was made to approve the Salaries for FY 24 with exception to the administrative positions and the two lead special education positions as presented by Jessica Goodwin. Jodi Stumpner seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.
- A motion was made to approve the Salaries for FY 24 for the Special Education Director/Administration Position and two lead special education teacher positions as presented by Melissa DeGidio. Julie Cox seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.
- A motion was made to approve the Executive Director/Administration Salary for FY 24 and the Executive Director Contract for 2023-24 as presented by Katie Crowley. Brady Jones seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

- A motion was made to table the remaining Administrative Positions Salaries for FY 24 until the next board meeting held on April 25, 2023 as presented by Katie Crowley. Melissa DeGidio seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### **F. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next meeting:

- Work Session April 4th, 2023 at 4 pm
- Regular meeting April 25, 2023, 2023 at 5 pm

#### **G. ADJOURNMENT**

Katie Crowley moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm. Jodi Stumpner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.