



**Anderson Creek Academy
Board of Directors' Meeting
Minutes
October 14, 2020**



The chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02pm at Anderson Creek Academy virtually due to COVID 19. He welcomed board members, staff and guests. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present:

Ken Adelberg
Dr. Kerry Agnello
Andy Barr
Lisa Clifford
Dr. Mary Majors
Wes Martin
Grace Merkle
Steve Shotz
Ann Stein
John Werderman

Guests: Dr. Majors, Mr. Wheeler, Mrs. Sheeley, Ms. Danielo, Ms. Laughlin, Ms. Connie Matthews, Ms. Young, Ms. Rossignol, Mrs. Werderman

Dr. Agnello moved, Mr. Barr seconded, to approve the September minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Committee Reports

Academic Dr. Majors reported that ACA is following the health guidelines. The change in education plans due to COVID has had an impact on MAPS scores, and ACA will start remediation. The Mackin Library and Fast Forward reading programs will help. Dr. Majors says that ACA and its scholars are doing better than many places. Mr. Werderman asked to review the MAPS scores in November. Dr. Majors and Mr. Council intend to survey families in November in regard to preference for in classroom/virtual balance. Currently 80% of scholars are in the classroom for their two days a week. Mr. Council projects 90% will attend in class at the end of the calendar years. Dr. Majors reported that the governor is considering more in person class time.

Medical Dr. Agnello reported that two months into school, ACA has thus far had 0 COVID + cases among teachers, staff and students. This achievement is a testament to all the efforts of the school team members, especially Mr. Hopper and Mrs. Sheeley. She stated that ACA following all the rules and guidelines has made this possible. Governor Cooper is looking at Plan A for K-5 schools. We need to be mindful that if ACA moves to Plan A, there will be no physical distancing. She asks that we all keep that in mind. The HEPA filter systems have been installed in offices and classrooms. Mrs. Sheeley has disseminated a 10 page cleaning protocol instruction manual for Plan A. This includes what ACA currently does, and increased sanitizing and cleaning. Governor Cooper put this into effect, as face to face instruction is so important. The medical community is seeing effects post-COVID, even in the very young.

Uniform Mrs. Stein reported that uniform donations continue; lending closet is available to all. She thanked the volunteers for collecting, washing, folding and stocking the closet. She thanked the teammates on the committee, especially Mr. Wheeler, for their feedback.

Public Relations Mr. Werderman said ACA may lose students if the Local Educational Authority goes to 5 days. However, he stated that ACA safety is our top priority. Mrs. Clifford that she is talking with students and parents that want a recap on what has been done. Governor Cooper issued an executive order. ACA took actions in the best interest of our community and want to continue on that path. Dr. Agnello said that in doing research, many know that other states are learning that reopening does not result in COVID+ clusters. Dr. Agnello's colleagues in other states, while there may not be outbreaks in school, learning is still being disrupted due to family members who are ill or affected. ACA created stability for the way scholars are learning now. Mr. Werderman stated he has tasked Mr. Council and Dr. Majors with developing options for the November meeting that may affect the second semester. Mr. Werderman stated that regardless of what the Local Educational Authority does, ACA has to do what is best for our community. Dr. Agnello stated that many private schools are in 5 days a week. However, most of those schools already have small classes and are able to distance. She believes this is a big part of their success. She wishes the Local Educational Authority well with their plans going forward. Mrs. Clifford reported that she will continue to help ACA in what ever way we can. Mr. Werderman stated the Dunn Daily Record did a great article on Mrs. Sheeley, COVID Enforcer.

Building Mr. Barr submitted the architect and engineering bills to the board in prior email. He reminded all that the costs are reduced below the original offers. Mr. Adelberg moved, Mrs. Clifford seconded, to approve the architectural and engineering services costs, not to exceed \$69k. **Motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Barr stated that ACA has been conditionally approved by the Harnett DRB. ACA must address superficial comments so that we can get full approval. Mr. Werderman stated the Finance Committee will draft a FY2021-2022 draft budget for the bank in preparation for the mortgage application. Mr. Werderman stated ACA would like to break ground by the first of the calendar year. ACA should be able to share more information by November.

Financial Report Mr. Barr moved, Dr. Agnello seconded, to approve the September financial statements. Mr. Werderman stated that NC funding has arrived, but Harnett County funding has not. Mrs. Stein reiterated that in the last two years, ACA has made sizeable investments in the school. ACA increased teacher's salaries not once but twice, and consulted teachers and staff for COVID recommendations, and implemented all the recommendations, at significant unbudgeted cost. The financial standing of ACA is strong despite significant financial outlays and this is reflected in the September financial statements. **Motion to approve the statements passed unanimously.**

Mr. Werderman introduced Connie Matthews, Curriculum Coordinator and Informational Technology Assistant, stating she had significant experience in both areas. Mr. Martin moved, Dr. Agnello seconded, to approve Ms. Matthews' employment agreement. **Motion passed unanimously.** In addition, Mr. Barr moved, Dr. Agnello seconded, to approve Mallory Wilson's employment agreement. **Motion passed unanimously.** Dr. Majors stated NC is now conducting earthquake drills and she has shared information with the teachers.

Head of School Report Dr. Majors asked if there were any questions about the Title IX Policy sent previously. Mrs. Clifford moved, Mr. Adelberg seconded, to approve the policy. **Motion passed unanimously.** Dr. Majors stated that ACA reached out to the Harnett County Public Health Department with whom they have an excellent relationship. The county gave ACA Breast Cancer Awareness items which were given to the teachers. Dr. Majors asked for the link to the Dunn Daily Record article for Mrs. Sheeley. Dr. Majors also requested from the Building Committee that a bricklayer be hired to fix a column which was damaged in front of the school.

New Business Dr. Majors submitted the board schedule to the state. Mr. Werderman stated that Dr. Majors is now a part time employee and would be a major asset to the board as a member and will have full voting rights when she is no long an employee. Mr. Adelberg moved, Mr. Barr seconded, to nominate Dr. Majors as a board member. Mr. Werderman acknowledged her qualifications and contributions. **Motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Werderman asked Dr. Majors to chair the academic committee; Dr. Majors agreed.

Old Business No old business.

Public Comment Ms. Laughlin asked about the school speed limit sign that was severely damaged by a local lumber truck. Mr. Barr confirmed that he was immediately notified. No one from the lumber company could commit to paying for the repairs and NCDOT confirmed ACA would be responsible. Mr. Barr confirmed he should be able to finalize the company's financial commitment Friday, but stated that repairs should be limited to a low cost pole for the sign. Mr. Wheeler thanked ACA for opening the video portion of the call to all. He confirmed that the next meeting was on Veterans' Day. Mr. Wheeler stated that the entrance and exit to the school had erosion at the road shoulders. Mr. Barr stated that he met with Mr. Council to measure those areas for widening and to address the erosion. Mr. Barr is researching options. Mr. Werderman asked if Mrs. Rossignol has any questions; she did not.

Closed Session No closed session.

Adjournment Mr. Shotz moved, Mr. Barr seconded, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Next Board Meeting November 18, 2020