



**Anderson Creek Academy
Board of Directors' Meeting
Minutes
February 17, 2021**



The chairman called the meeting to order at 7:01pm 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
Lisa Hamilton
Dr. Mary Majors
Wes Martin
Grace Merkle
Steve Shotz
Ann Stein
John Werderman

Guests: Mr. Council, Mrs. Sheeley, Ms. Laughlin, Ms. Danielo, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Haggard, Mr. Haggard, Mrs. Cadet, Ms. Weymouth, Ms. Cope, Mr. Wheeler, Ms. Piro-Duffin, Ms. Young, Ms. Devrano, Mr. Linder, Ms. Finney, Ms. Englin, Mrs. Werderman, et al.

Mr. Barr moved, Dr. Agnello seconded, to approve the previous month's minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Committee Reports

Academic Mrs. Clifford moved, Mr. Martin seconded, to approve beginning teachers support program. **Motion passed unanimously.** Dr. Agnello reviewed the CDC Guidance on return to school. Dr. Agnello stated the virus has not changed. Not even a month ago, Governor Cooper held a brief that K-5 was to be in school all week with all safety protocols upheld except the 6 feet distance. Grades 6-12 will have no changes at this time. The basis of that presentation was with updated data with little child to child, children to teacher transmission. The persistent consideration is that children are suffering in the virtual environment. Dr. Agnello has formed a focus group. February 2, Governor Cooper made these statements, to which the CDC agreed. Benefits of K-5 in face to face outweigh the risks. The focus group recommends 4 days at the week, with potential changes in the future. She is thankful for all the teachers and staff—all prepared with supplies, and have the options of vaccines. ACA sent a survey, to which 206 families responded: 18 fully remote, 19 remain hybrid learning and 169 for the 4 day learning plan. ACA has reached out to the Harnett County Health Department for vaccines, and that teachers and staff will not be charged leave for time they are absent to receive the vaccine. Mr. Werderman asked for the teacher's feedback on the four day plan. Ms. Laughlin stated that the benefits outweigh the risks. Dr. Majors said this will be helpful, feedback from teachers that see all the students. Mr. Haggard has larger classes and will have distancing. Mr. Linder has studied the data, and said that the benefits outweigh the risks. Mrs. Cadet asked how will substitutes fill in and what about teachers who might decide not to get the vaccine. Dr. Agnello responded that this is the time to be even more productive. Dr. Agnello moved that ACA will move to 4 days of face to face learning ASAP with a target date of March 16, 2021. Mr. Adelberg seconded. A discussion ensued. Mr. Werderman said that safety is issue #1. **Motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Werderman said that ACA will make the best efforts, led by Dr. Agnello and focus group, to work

with the teachers and staff through all considerations. Safety is still ACA's highest priority. Mrs. Clifford said she is getting texts from ACA Parent Nation and asked what could make the timeline adjust. Dr. Agnello said that ACA is basing our decisions on NC Safe Schools Decisions Kit.

Dr. Majors said for next month's MAPS report, Mr. Council may call Ms. Weymouth to present.

Medical Dr. Agnello said she had already reported in Academic.

Uniform Mrs. Stein reported that uniform donations continue with many items donated this month. Many thanks to donors and volunteers. The Lost and Found had 23 items, and none had names recorded. Uniform items were returned to the closet and the remainder donated to charity. This month, ACA families donated 60 uniform items!! Staff actively disseminates cold weather items as needed (and enter scholar names into garment).

Public Relations Mrs. Clifford reported that she has been very busy with the lottery. She thanked Mrs. Sheeley, Ms. Daniello, Mrs. Hamilton, Ms. Merkle and Mr. Martin. Mrs. Clifford has also been working with Dr. Majors on recruiting. Mr. Werderman stated that ACA has 244 applicants for SY2021-2022.

Building Mr. Barr stated that Architectural Plans are in the vetting process; the brick column is being worked on.

Financial Report Mr. Barr moved, Dr. Agnello seconded, to approve the financial reports. **Motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Werderman reported that the 2020 Audit is complete and he will send a soft copy to all. The time for Form 990 is extended and the Accountant is working on it.

Head of School Report Mr. Council highlighted that ACA had award ceremonies scheduled for today and tomorrow. He recognized Ms. Laughlin and Ms. Young for their work on the survey. ACA is conducting interviews for vacancies and has included teachers as part of the interview process. He said ACA may have fund their webmaster and IT Support. He stated that on school culture, Ms. Weymouth lead a class test coordinator and said Ms. Johnson was a great help. He said lots of specialists have stepped up. He says the strong administrative team of Ms. Johnson and Ms. Weymouth are extremely helpful. Mr. Council asked Ms. Johnson to lead beginning teacher coordinator and Second grade teacher. He calls them "OWLS"—Our Wonderful Leaders for teachers on initial license and with less than 3 years' experience. This will address items required by the state, or other items implemented at ACA. New staff are also assigned a mentor. There will be biweekly OWL meetings. NCDPI audited ACA and they were very impressed. ACA has teacher professional development and parent conferences during non-student days. ACA is using Google Classroom and feedback. He worked with Ms. Weymouth and looks forward to other opportunities to share with all stakeholders. He says he does not think any other school provides the same opportunities. He turned over the update to Ms. Weymouth for MAPS. She reported ACA is still testing for makeups. COVID has not had a blanket effect on ACA, as expected. Mr. Council says Ms. Weymouth is a walking example of adaptability. Ms. Weymouth thanked her Teachers' Assistant, Ms. Wilson, who carried the classroom during MAPS.

Old Business No old business.

New Business

Mr. Werderman says the Grievance Committee currently has three members, and would like to appoint two additional members, Mr. Adelberg and Mrs. Hamilton so that there are a grievance can be responded to by three of 5 members.

Public Comment There were some questions forwarded to the board, and Mr. Werderman will respond. He opened the floor. Mr. Wheeler had a question as to how will pickup work with more children in school. Mr. Council responded that ACA is looking at this, including road maintenance and improvements for eroded areas. Mr. Barr has a wish list.

Closed Session Mr. Werderman cited a need to go into closed session, citing NCGS Article 33C, Paragraph 143-318.11(6). Mr. Barr moved, Mr. Werderman seconded, to go into closed session.

Closed Session notes: The board had a discussion under NCGS Article 33C, Paragraph 143-318.11(6).

Adjournment Mr. Barr moved, Mrs. Clifford seconded, to adjourn. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 10:08pm.

Next Board Meeting March 17, 2021