



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



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  
Lisa Hamilton  
Dr. Mary Majors  
Wes Martin  
Grace Merkle  
Erica Morgan  
Steve Shotz  
Ann Stein  
John Werderman

**Guests:** Mr. Council, Mrs. Sheeley, Ms. Laughlin, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Haggard, Ms. Young, Ms. Weymouth, Ms. Cope, Mrs. Wheeler, Mr. Wheeler, Ms. Rossignol, Ms. Caitlin Elliott, Ms. Heyla Humbolt, Ms. Connie Matthews, Ms. Genevieve DeVeyra, Mrs. Werderman, et al.

Mrs. Clifford moved, Mrs. Hamilton seconded, to approve the previous month's minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mrs. Stein advised the board that we failed to vote to come out of February's closed session; She moved, Dr. Agnello seconded, to come out of closed session. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Committee Reports**

**Public Relations** Mrs. Clifford presented a history of ACA. A charter school is an independent school, each with its own focus. ACA's focus is academic. She posed the question as to whether ACA has Accelerated/Gifted Scholars, and reminded all that at ACA all students are considered to have exceptional strengths, and this has been the case since ACA started in 2014. During the entire time of the school, staff and teachers have given their all. When the most recent NC Report Card was issued, ACA had the highest elementary school rating in Harnett County. NC also awarded ACA an Exceeded Expectations Award with the students recognized nationally. ACA is also a military friendly school, proudly being a Purple Star School, a rare recognition awarded to schools who support military communities. The highest accolade NC has awarded ACA is a 10 year charter renewal, very rarely awarded. Although COVID has decreased volunteer hours dramatically, but ACA is known for its strength of volunteers, including the board of directors. As COVID ends, Mrs. Clifford reminded all that ACA will open its doors again for exceptional volunteers. She stated that there are many things ACA families can do to volunteer. Mr. Werderman stated ACA has an applicant for Mrs. Clifford's position. Ms. Erica Morgan has over 14 years of experience in the local community, and had children at ACA. Mr. Adelberg moved, Mr. Martin moved, to nominate Ms. Morgan to the board. **Motion passed unanimously.** Ms. Morgan will serve be on the Finance Committee and has agreed to Chair the Public Relations Committees.

**Academic** Dr. Majors stated that she and Mrs. Merkle looked at the academics across the US as

a whole and noted poor reading skills. ACA has looked at different reading methods, and updated Mr. Adelberg and Mrs. Hamilton of an array of reading resources used by ACA. Dr. Majors reported scholars at ACA are making good progress. Mr. Council, Dr. Majors and Mrs. Merkle met to identify priority academic areas, which are highlighted in the Head of School Report.

**Head of School Report** Mr. Council thanked Mrs. Clifford for her work. Mr. Council credited Ms. Young for saying it best, “It was an eventful day” when ACA reopened. Scholars were happy and engaged. There was an unscheduled fire drill in the pouring rain, as a curious scholar pulled the fire alarm. ACA teammates learned a lot. The Fire Marshall inspected ACA today, and the school passed with flying colors. Mr. Council reported new hires; Jennifer Lahr as a First Grade Classroom Teacher, Rachel Degenhard as a TA, Josie Terry as ~~for~~ an Exceptional Children TA and Emily Russell as a 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers’ Assistant. Beth Bryson will serve as interim Reading Intervention Teacher. Dr. Louis Held who was the tutoring and enrichment teacher has submitted his resignation. Mr. Council has a potential replacement. Mr. Council presented Ms. Weymouth for a MAPS Data Review encore appearance.

Ms. Weymouth sent MAPS Data to board members prior to the meeting. She reported a 5-10% drop in math which is consistent for COVID students across the country. There was also a decrease in science scores for all ACA. Mrs. Weymouth drafted an EOG projection reported, which Mr. Werderman asked her to send. Ms. Weymouth is working with Mr. Council to prioritize remediation efforts. Ms. Weymouth reported that next MAPS test is May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Council said he expects to see a jump in the next round of testing, due to the return to more face to face learning versus remote learning. He recommends that any summer school needs to be face to face and interactive and does not consider expense to be a show-stopper. Mr. Werderman requested a budget for the April board meeting.

Mrs. Sheeley presented a lottery update. The lottery included 12 classes, with two at each grade. She made certain to capture all families’ intents prior to the lottery. Mrs. Stein asked about contingency planning if returning scholars exceeds class sizes; Mr. Werderman stated that a temporary classroom could be an option and/or slightly larger class sizes until attrition and pcs reductions occur. Dr. Agnello asked for consideration of 3 classrooms of 16 scholars, if needed; Mr. Werderman will monitor the lottery results and work with the Administration and Finance committee for options.

**Medical** Dr. Agnello stated that for the first time in a year, she has good news. NC COVID cases and hospitalizations dropped about 50% last month. The steady declines are all good news. The NC vaccine distribution is on par with the rest of the country, with 20% partial, and 12.6% fully vaccinated as of March 16. ACA currently has 0 staff and scholars quarantined. A Focus Health Group of Ms. Laughlin, Ms. Athnos, Mrs. Wheeler, ~~the school nurse~~, Mrs. Clifford, Mrs. Sheeley and Dr. Agnello evaluated ACA to ensure ACA met all COVID recommendations. Mrs. Sheeley had a great idea and coordinated for a medical volunteer to schedule vaccinations for all teachers and staff who requested them. These are all scheduled, and no one will be charged any time off. Dr. Agnello stated she did not expect to be at this stage until May. All other COVID recommendations—including masks, ventilators, spacing, etc, are all complete. Many teachers requested plexiglass dividers for small group learning and Mr. Council and a small group of volunteers assembled these themselves. Mr. Council recognized Mr. Carr and Mr. Wheeler for their assistance and noted that the volunteer made items was significantly less costly than the commercially made items.

**Uniform** Mrs. Stein thanked all for the recommended uniform policy changes. She suggested the consideration that the head of school consider stating that hiking shoes are permitted in the beginning of year letter. She reported that uniform donations continue with many items donated this month. Many thanks to donors and volunteers.

**Public Relations** Mrs. Clifford completed her report at the beginning of the meeting.

**Building** Mr. Barr will review all landscaping items this week and will research temporary buildings.

**Financial Report** Dr. Agnello moved, Mr. Martin seconded, to approve the financial reports. **Motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Adelberg moved, Mr. Barr seconded to approve the new hires.

**Old Business** Mr. Werderman stated the Human Resource Leave Policy is the top priority for the HR committee to review. Mrs. Merkle is the new lead for the HR committee.

### **New Business**

Mr. Werderman stated there was no new business.

**Public Comment** Mr. Wheeler had a few questions. Mr. Council asked Ms. Johnson to give a brief presentation about professional development and Ms. Rossignol to present an update regarding the new dismissal system. Ms. Johnson stated it was an exciting month with March 8 as a professional development day. Ms. Mathews presented on NCSS Tier 1, 2 and 3 forms, and Google Classroom Museum where teachers could view co-worker classrooms, and the classroom management plan for beginning teachers. Ms. Johnson will lead training and will follow up. Mr. Gerhard Guevarra, School Liaison Officer of Child, Youth and School Services of Directorate of Family & MWR of the Fort Bragg Garrison Command met with ACA Faculty and Staff on military school topics. ACA has begun to use Literacy Pro of Scholastic Software and is looking forward to teachers' thoughts and experiences. Mr. Council said all the professional development is very good and would like the board to be able to see the museum. He said Ms. Rossignol researched a product to manage dismissal. Ms. Rossignol says the teachers have been pleased with the cost effective program. Mr. Wheeler raised a concern about traffic at dismissal. Mr. Council acknowledged that he has received lots of parent feedback and potential strategies to address the concerns. Dr. Majors acknowledged the extensive work done by Ms. Rossignol and Mr. Haggard. Mr. Council acknowledged the work of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, with Ms. Laughlin's leadership, to escort younger children to the vehicles. Mr. Council acknowledged the work of all to get the students to vehicles in the driving rain. Mr. Wheeler raised concerns about washouts on the ACA paved areas; Mr. Barr acknowledged research to address these areas. Mr. Werderman asked for an update on Mr. Barr's research. Mr. Council thanked Mr. Barr for his efforts, and stated he has met with Mr. Mike Brinton, a local contractor, to improve the flagpole area.

**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. Martin seconded, to go into closed session. **Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Dr. Agnello moved, Mrs. Hamilton seconded, to come out of closed session. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Adjournment** Mr. Barr moved, Mr. Martin seconded, to adjourn. **Motion passed unanimously.**  
Meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

**Next Board Meeting April 21, 2021**