

**AFSA K-12**  
**Work Session Notes**  
**K-8 Cafeteria**

**Sept 27, 2022**

**4:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Minutes**

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

**Board Members Absent:** Gerard Cramer

**Others Present:** Becky Meyer, Erik Bruner-Wiltse, Shannon Swenson, Liz Burkwald, Carrie Reid

**A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

1. Call to Order: Board Chair Kate Plaisance called the work session to order at 4:00 pm.

**B. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Julie Cox spoke on behalf of the Interview Committee on the interview process created for the open Parent Representative Board position and how this format will be used in the future. Six Candidates were interviewed and the committee recommended Jessica Goodwin for the position. The discussion included how to keep the other five candidates involved and utilize their skills as they all had good things to bring to AFSA.

2. Reflection on Board Retreat: Kate Plaisance created the Strategic Plan Document for review and it will be presented at the October Board Meeting. The Board Agenda Calendar will be completed at the November Board Meeting. Google Training will be provided by Becky Meyer and [Erik Bruner-Wiltse](#) in December and the Board Handbook will be updated and Policy Review will be addressed at the January Board Meeting.

The three main goals of the Board were discussed ( 1. Student/Staff Retention, 2. Community involvement to improve visibility and reputation, 3. Align and connect K-12 Curriculum) along with the process in evaluating how the Board achieves those goals.

3. School Finances: Shannon Swenson was excited to share that the Audit was completed and was clean. The Board brainstormed fundraising ideas and discussed the upcoming fruit/chocolate/coffee sale fundraiser.

4. Review Policies: Reviewed 103 Religious Policy and discussed Video Policy and Credit Card Policy.

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

**Regular board meeting to begin at 5:00 pm**

**AFSA K-12**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**K-8 Cafeteria**  
**September 27, 2022**  
**5:00 - 6:30 pm**  
**Minutes**

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

**Board Members Absent:** Gerard Cramer

**Others Present:** Becky Meyer, Erik Bruner-Wiltse, Liz Burkwald, Shannon Swenson, Carrie Reid, [Mark Prokopowicz](#), Karlie Groves, NHS student representatives (Roman, Maddie, and Damani)

**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 Science & Agriculture, 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: Preparing Students for Careers in Science, Business, and Technology of Agriculture
  - c. Honoring Native Tribes: 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 agenda as presented was made by Brady Jones. Katie Crowley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. Determination of Conflict of Interest: No conflict of interest was determined to be present.

**B. NHS GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Roman, Maddie, and Damani shared a powerpoint about the National Honor Society and shared how a student is invited to be a part of this school organization based on GPA and the application process. The students presented the NHS goals to increase student interest in becoming a member and activities for the 2022-23 school year. Some of the activities include a Blood Drive, H2O for Life, Barn Dance, Salvation Army coat/toy drive, and Clean-up of AFSA Prairie land. Fundraising was discussed to help with the cost of the Barn Dance.

**C. PROCEDURAL ITEMS CONTINUED:**

1. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the August 2022 Board minutes. Katie Crowley called Division on the vote. A second motion was made to approve the August 2022 Board Minutes as presented was made by Katie Crowley. Julie Cox seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Financial Report: Shannon Swenson presented the Financial Report, payment of invoices and acceptance of gifts. A motion was made to approve the Financial Report as presented was made by Melissa DeGidio. David Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Audit will be presented at the October Board meeting.

## **B. GUEST COMMENTS (Three minutes per presenter)- No Guest Comments**

## **C. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **1. Administrative report:**

Liz Burkwald presented the administrative report for AFSA K-8.

K-8:

- Academics are in full swing at the K-8 with students working on science and cultural studies.
- Beginning assessments have been analyzed and students identified for support services.
- Constitution/Citizenship Day was celebrated which collaborated with one of our staff gaining citizenship days before.
- Farm and Community Day was a success and the mulch on the playground looks great.
- AFSA K8 is excited about joining St Paul Public Schools for their Indigenous People's Day celebration and parade.
- The older advisory students have started working together to mentor younger classrooms to build leadership skills.
- September Field Trips have been planned for the Arboretum, Como Zoo, and Battle Creek.
- AFSA K8 implemented SOAR, which recognizes students being respectful, responsible, and safe at school.

Erik Bruner-Wiltse presented the administrative report for AFSA High School.

9-12:

- AFSA HS FFA held activation week, with FFA student lead dress up days and activities all week with focus on team building.
- New Advisory Curriculum has been provided to teachers to be implemented this year. This has been successful so far including group discussions on building social/life skills, discussing difficult topics and problem solving.
- Farm and Community Day was successful as students worked hard in the community with clean up and various tasks from helping with fall harvest, fence repair, and building new tables for our AFSA greenhouse.
- OTerm forms have been coming in with students excited about fishing, the outdoors and field trips.
- Students and staff are preparing for the Potato Hug Event scheduled for October 8th. Students are able to sell SAE projects and earn presentation credits. AFSA K12 Art exhibit is also a part of the Potato Hug Event.
- AFSA Sports are in full swing with students active in soccer, volleyball and cross country.

2. Committee Reports: Discussion on notes/minutes from committee meetings and sharing those at future board meetings.

## **D. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. AFSA FY22 EE Evaluation: The Environmental Evaluation is derived by Osprey Wild's charter contract, MN Department of Education's plan for environmental education, and "Awareness to Action Continuum." Liz Burkwald and [Erik Bruner-Wiltse](#) are the AFSA Academic Directors leading the documentation and requirements for this evaluation. It starts in August with five essential components (Awareness, Knowledge, Attitudes, Skills, Action) included into academic

lesson plans that focus on Environmental Based Learning Goals. AFSA goes well beyond these lessons to include environmental learning with our agricultural and science curriculum, hands on learning and field trips. The evaluation is based on the learning rubrics and target number of students successfully meeting each learning objective in the lesson. Examples of previous AFSA Environmental Curriculum included Climate Change, Pollinator life cycles, Nature Journaling, Water Scarcity, Fair trade and Organic Agriculture.

2. School Video Policy- reviewed policy for board input and discussion to be adopted in the future.
3. Credit Card Policy - reviewed policy for board input and discussion to be adopted in the future.

#### **E. ACTION ITEMS**

1. Propel Line of Credit: A motion was made to renew the Propel Line of Credit as presented by David Smith. Melissa DeGidio seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
2. Parent Board Member Appointment: A motion was made to appoint Jessica Goodwin as the new Parent Board Member for October 2022- June 2024 as presented by Julie Cox. Katie Crowley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. Policies – Religious Accommodations: A motion was made to adopt the 103 Religious Accommodations Policy as presented by David Smith. Jody Stumpner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**F. TRAINING:** none

#### **G. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Next meeting: Regular Meeting October 25, 2022 at 5 pm
  - 3:30 pm Finance Committee
  - 4:00 pm Work Session

**H. ADJOURNMENT:** Katie Crowley moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 pm. Melissa DeGidio seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.