

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
ARISTOI CLASSICAL ACADEMY, INC.**

**February 27, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Aristoi Classical Academy, Inc., charter holder for Aristoi Classical Academy ("School") was held on **Monday, February 27, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at the Griffin Center**, 5610 Morton Road, Katy, TX 77493-1971 in the Cafeteria.

1. Call to order and establishment of a quorum. – L. Botond called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Also in attendance were A. Hovis, A. Cox, D. Light, C. Gillespie, B. Davidson, M. Watson, K. Locheed, M. Pertuso, C. Cimpean, and A. Amboree. W. Clark was absent.
2. Hearing of citizens. – None
3. Recognize Aristoi athletes for outstanding achievement. – Mr. Boling presented those in attendance with an overview of the outstanding achievements of the Aristoi Classical Academy Flag Football team. The Flag Football team won the school's third state championship. The athletes were then presented with a banner and trophy, to be displayed, in recognition of their achievements. Coach Pepper stepped in and led the team this season and he spoke eloquently about the character of the students and the fact that they're an intelligent group that worked extremely hard all season. Two of the team leaders spoke on behalf of the team. (This presentation began at 5:30 and ended at 5:48.)
4. Approve Consent Agenda: **Motion to Approve Consent Agenda: A. Hovis, Second: D. Light, APPROVED: Unanimously**
  - a. Minutes for January 23, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.
  - b. Superintendent's Report
  - c. Financial Update from Business Office
5. Hear from Kara Belew, of Tenet Leadership, regarding update on Lone Star Governance. Ms. Belew appeared by teleconference. Discussion began at 5:48 p.m and concluded at 6:18 p.m. K. Belew discussed how best to generate the survey that will be circulated, in March, to students, parents, and faculty. The questions proposed will be presented for board consideration and approval in March. Previous surveys have focused on academic, extracurricular, and student input on topics such as bullying and the overall culture of Aristoi. The survey questions will also serve to ensure the administration and board have clear two- way communication with our constituents. Ultimately, all information gathered will be used to help the board ensure appropriate constraints are in place. Ms. Belew then shared a graphic with a points system, showing how school boards can rate their focus level in order to achieve mastery. K. Belew also shared the constraint survey and document of The Vanguard School to demonstrate the effectiveness of surveys in creating community conversations. The feedback received is often a good indicator of student needs and can then be condensed into a pie chart. Another critical step in creating effective constraints is

having a way to measure their progress. The goal is to have 3-5 constraints in place and then educate administration in providing feedback on these measurables. There is a charter school training for Lone Star Governance on April 20-21 at Rice University and Aristoi board and administration are welcomed to attend.

6. Discuss, consider, and approve Charter Amendment and Board Resolution to delay the opening of the Greater Houston Metro Area campus until the Fall of 2024.  
The board was presented with the new resolution.  
**Motion to Approve Charter Amendment and Resolution to delay the opening of the Greater Houston Metro Area campus until the Fall of 2024 : L.Botond, Second: A. Cox, APPROVED: Unanimously**
  
7. Discuss and consider engagement letter for Schulman, Lopez, Hoffer and Adlestein.  
This transition to Shulman, Lopez, Hoffer and Adlestein has been under consideration for a couple of years. Maureen Singleton, with Thompson and Horton, who has been with us for 17 years, will still be our counsel used for contract negotiations and real-estate dealings. SLHA will have more availability and administration has worked closely with Denise Pierce, of SLHA, in the past. Janet Vaughan Robertson was in attendance to present letter of engagement. Aristoi will still employ Thompson and Horton for representation in an outstanding legal matter.  
**Motion to engage the services of Shulman, Lopez, Hoffer and Adelstein: L. Botond, Second: C. Gillespie, APPROVED: Unanimously**
  
8. Discuss and consider an update on the Cypress Campus, including but not limited to enrollment, facilities, renovations, leadership team and faculty.  
M. Pertuso reported that Cypress campus has accepted a total of 159 new students, bringing total student enrollment to 450. The first new hire for the 2023-2024 school year has been made, filling the position for 5<sup>th</sup> grade Humanities. The goal date for moving into The Lawson Center has been moved to the start of 23-24 academic year. M. Pertuso has spoken with an architect about further renovations needed and the church leadership has approved. The cost to get the elevator operational will be \$3,800 which includes monitoring cost. Crossover Bible Fellowship does not agree to pay any portion of this. It has been discussed and agreed upon among administration the best course of action is to pay for the elevator and request a reimbursement of services equal to the cost of repairs.
  
9. Discuss and consider an update on the Katy Grammar School, including but not limited to enrollment, facilities, renovations, leadership team and faculty.  
T. Polvogt reports that there are now 262 students on the waiting list. Katy Grammar is looking to add a Dean of Students and a Student Services Coordinator, for which they are currently interviewing candidates with the help of L. Cummins. Skirting has been added around the portables and an electrician was on site to repair the lights. During the safety audit, it was noted that the perimeter fence is not high enough and would need to be extended by an addition two feet to meet new code requirements. T. Polvogt also reports that she was able to attend the Great Hearts Symposium and that it was a very good experience.

10. Discuss and consider an update on the Katy Upper School (Logic and Rhetoric Schools), including but not limited to enrollment, facilities, renovations, leadership team and faculty.

Dr. Cimpean is anticipating that enrollment will reach 700 students with the addition of 62 new students. Preparations are underway for graduation and a Dr. Jonathan Sanders from University of Dallas has been confirmed as the keynote speaker. An alumni panel will be speaking at the gala, in order to discuss how Aristoi's curriculum prepared them for the rigorous demands of higher education. Currently, administration is conducting interviews for Head of Logic School, Latin, an additional Humane Letters teacher, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math and Science, and Chemistry (Full-Time). They are also hoping to be able to offer Astronomy. Kingsland Baptist Church generously donated their time to paint the deck.

11. Discuss and consider the TEA Cyclical Monitoring Report for Special Education and the Corrective Action Plan.

B. Lockheed presented this report and noted that currently, we were marked as noncompliant in two areas. In order to conduct the audit, a selection of 22 IEPs were pulled at random from differing campus and grade levels. Of our issues of noncompliance, the auditor did reassure administration the errors were very nuanced and were widespread among districts throughout the state. Moving forward, following the Corrective Action Plan presented, Speech only ARDs will be required to provide detailed PLAAFP statements. Another area found in noncompliance was the measurement of goals, conditions, and measurable goals being used. Additional steps listed in the Corrective Action Plan are that B. Lockheed will work to ensure that all third-party contractors who provide speech services are trained in compliance with current policies and will also be providing further training to Special Education teachers in PLAAFP development and goal writing. There is no need to redo the ARDs identified as having errors. There will be a follow up in one year, at which time seven new IEPs in addition to the eleven identified can be presented to demonstrate changes made. Aristoi did receive high marks in identifying students with special needs and Mr. Lockheed especially wanted to note the exceptional record keeping of Vikki Camper. The dyslexia program was noted as not pulling students for a total of 120 minutes as required but only 90 minutes per week. The state requires that students receive the full 120 minutes or none at all. Parents are not allowed to request instruction time between the two extremes. This presents difficulty for students who are missing critical class time. Mr. Lockheed sent out 504 amendments to the families affected by the change, and several parents declined services altogether, citing concerns of missed class time. The corrective action plan is due by March 2, 2023.

12. Discuss and consider safety equipment needed per Texas School Safety Center mandate and consider delegation of authority to administration to secure necessary equipment. An update was provided by B. Davidson and Shea Cantu on the status of our compliance with TEA school safety requirements. Of the six plans submitted so far, all requirements have been met, with seven remaining for submission. Currently, work is being done to complete HAZMAT safety plans and Active Threat Plans. The school received a

\$200,000 grant for safety items required, however, the total of these are over the threshold of allowed Superintendent spending. It was requested that all line items are budgeted and accounted for.

**Motion to delegate authority to administration to secure necessary equipment with Federal Grants for safety, and/ or from funds set aside in our budget: L. Botond, Second: A. Hovis, APPROVED: Unanimously**

13. Discuss and consider the procurement of marketing tools for the Capital Campaign, including but not limited to Architectural Rendering of Master Plan, and consider delegation of authority to administration to secure necessary tools.

**TABLED UNTIL FURTHER DISCUSSION at MARCH 6- SPECIAL MEETING**

14. Discuss and consider a standing board agenda item for the capital campaign update. No vote necessary, item will be added to future agendas.

15. Discuss and consider updates regarding facilities development plan and next steps for facilities expansion projects in partnership with Turner Impact.

Mr. Hovis reported that Turner Impact has a network of architects and engineers they have worked with extensively. It was suggested that Turner may offer a significant amount of cost savings  $\geq$ \$1 million. The renderings have been completed but there is still work to be done before they can present the cost. Will discuss further at Special Meeting, on March 6.

16. Hear an update on Gala planning.

Mr. Hovis reported that so far, \$82,000 has been received in sponsorships, surpassing the goal by \$2,000. There is also an anticipated \$15,000 still to be received. The raffle goal is \$40,000 of which \$10,000 has been met to-date. The gala committee has also collected \$48,000 in items which surpasses the goal of \$35,000. The tables are sold out, with 11 being teacher tables. A. Hovis said the team is incredible and everyone has been working hard to make this year's gala a success. Total goal for the event is \$175,000.

17. Discuss and consider testing reports for the Benchmark and SAT tests.

Discussion began at 7:25 p.m. and concluded at 7:37 p.m. Received reports from K. Lockheed, M. Pertuso, T. Polvogt, and C. Cimpean.

K. Lockheed reported that the PSAT scores are above state and local districts. While there was a small decline reported in scores, it's believed that this is linked to COVID and the disruption to good study habits and discipline. K. Lockheed is predicting the CCMR score's will be in the high 70's/ low 80's and that the freshman and sophomore classes are poised to rebound any decline in the scores. K. Lockheed will work on providing a graphic of Aristoi's scores to be used as a fundraising talking point. The Spring Benchmark results show the change in testing formats has least impacted the high school. The scores also reflect that 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades are strongest in their math scores, while also reporting a small decline in reading. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is struggling across the board. The current curriculum focuses heavily on conceptual math and doesn't necessarily align with TEKS. Cypress showed significant growth from Fall to Spring. There has been a focus on staying true to a classical education and using computer class to practice

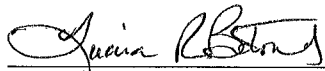
the basic 'click and drag' skills needed. The 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades have shown growth on all levels, with 95% meeting reading goals. Katy campus also reported increased scores and there has been a lot of focus on supporting the teachers in their instructional methods. Training was held in January and was very helpful. Dr. Cimpean reported that benchmarks showed 61% mastery in 6<sup>th</sup> grade math which is 2 times higher than scores from Region 4, and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores were similarly superior to state and district scores. Jim Jones was also acknowledged as being instrumental in setting up computers to allow for training.

18. Discuss and consider updates to the Strategic Plan.  
The graphics and visuals still need improvement, but S. Joftus of Four Points offered a discount of \$2,800 as seed money to be used to engage another graphics vendor for completion of the Strategic Plan. Administration would like to work with Petrus on completion of design elements.
19. Adjournment to closed or executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 of the Open Meetings Act, for the following purposes:**7:44 p.m.**
  - a. For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline of Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent.
20. Reconvene to open session. **8:44 p.m.**
21. **Motion to Take Action on Items Discussed in Closed Session: L. Botond, Second: A. Hovis, APPROVED: Unanimously**
22. Discuss items to be placed on the March Regular Meeting Agenda.
23. **Motion to Adjourn at 8:44 p.m.: L. Botond, Second: C.Gillespie, APPROVED: Unanimously**

Prepared by C. Gillespie

This is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on February 27, 2023 as approved by the Board of Directors on March 27, 2023.

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Lucina Botond, Board President