

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
ARISTOI CLASSICAL ACADEMY, INC.  
July 17 , 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, July 17, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at the school**, 5610 Morton Road, Katy, TX 77493-1971 in classroom F1.

1. Call to order and establishment of a quorum.- L. Botond called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Also present were W. Clark, A. Cox, D. Light, C. Gillespie, M. Watson, M. Pertuso, K. Locheed, J. Creech and A. Amboree. A. Hovis and B. Havlik were unable to attend.
2. Hearing of citizens.- **None**
3. Approve Consent Agenda: **Motion to Approve Consent Agenda: C. Gillespie, Second: A. Cox, APPROVED: Unanimously**
  - a. Minutes for June 19, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.
  - b. Minutes for July 8, 2023, Special Board Meeting.
  - c. Superintendent's Report
  - d. Financial Update from Business Office
  - e. Report from Budget Finance Committee
4. Discuss and consider proposed Budget for the 2023-2024- The 2023-2024 proposed budget is balanced. The budget has been broken down by individual campus, rather than by district as previously done. The revenue for each budget was based on 96% average daily attendance (ADA). These attendance numbers have proven to be accurate over previous years. It was noted, however, that during bond negotiations this number may be a factor for consideration, as it has been in the past, with lenders preferring a higher percentage of ADA. The proposed budget may have further updates based off of safety requirements and the funding available.
5. Discuss and consider updates on capital campaign. - A. Robinson joined via videoconference to provide update. Petrus has begun meeting and extending invitations to prospective capital campaign committee members, with most being receptive and eager. The goal for the first committee meeting will be August, when there is a full committee of 6-7 members. Those who have been selected have shown great enthusiasm for supporting Aristoi and in reaching out to others.
6. Discuss, consider, and approve the revised Strategic Plan. - The only proposed revision is the addition of Cypress references.  
**Motion to Approve Strategic Plan with Discussed Revisions: D. Light, Second: W. Clark, APPROVED: Unanimously**
7. Discuss, consider, and approve updated Expansion Plan. – The proposed updates to the Expansion Plan are to prioritize the relocation and construction of Katy Grammar to the

Morton Road location, which would allow for the sale of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street campus. There will additionally be focus on the construction of a competition gym that will serve multiple purposes, an audio system suitable for fine arts productions, complete parking, and carpool lanes. This will lay the groundwork for future growth of Aristoi Katy. These updates will take place in conjunction with the proposed Cypress expansion solution and the Houston Campus. M. Watson recommends that proceeds from the sale of 11<sup>th</sup> Street be used toward the Cypress expansion and the placement of Campus Maker portables at the current Perry Road location. Verbal permission from Crossover Church has already been granted for the placement of portables. The benefits of the updated plan are the ability to unite the Katy Campus in one location and the growth momentum that will come with implementing the plan. With the new building being constructed for the purpose of Grammar school versus Logic and Rhetoric, the cost of the project has been significantly reduced and frees up 11<sup>th</sup> Street proceeds. Some concerns with the proposed updates are the timeline for a permanent Cypress facility will be abbreviated, the Morton Street construction does not generate any revenue with the creation of new seats and does not take out present or future leases. Early projections on the updated plan look favorable for a 6.5% interest rate, and with some budget changes the lease adjusted annual debt service is now above the 1.2x threshold that is preferred by lenders. Summary of Mr. Watson's Recommended Plan for Expansion: 1) Morton Road construction of permanent K-4 building at cost of \$4-5 million, 2) Competition Gym foundation to be built with accordion wall between gyms, 3) Improved Arts and Performance audio system in current gym, 4) Complete Morton campus parking and carpool infrastructure, 5) Sell 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Conservative Cost estimates: Total value of expansion plan to be approximately \$12 million to include \$9 million funded by new bond issue, \$2 million from capital campaign, \$1 million from sale of 11<sup>th</sup> Street campus. Provision of approximately \$1 million each to go toward Cypress campus and new Houston campus.

**Motion to:**

- 1) approve Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR) Method of Construction and Delegate Authority to Administration to Prepare Solicitation and Publish Notice for Construction,**
- 2) engage Jack Duran (Blueline Architects) to lead the Morton Road project and delegate authority to the administration to work with Maureen Singleton in preparing and signing the contract with Mr. Duran, and**
- 3) engage Masterson Advisors to solicit bonds to refund the 2016 bonds and secure new funding not to exceed \$11 million for Aristoi expansion plans.**

**Motion: A. Cox, Second: D. Light, APPROVED: Unanimously**

8. Discuss, consider, and approve the engagement of Whitley Penn as the auditor for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

**Motion to engage Whitley Penn as the auditor for the 2022-2023 fiscal year: L. Botond, Second: C. Gillespie, APPROVED: Unanimously**

9. Discuss, consider, and approve engagement of website management system.- D. Gonzalez will bring further information to the next board meeting. The current contract expires in October. – **TABLED**
10. Discuss, consider, and approve revisions to the branding and marketing tools. – The Aristoi Flame, a darker navy approved color, and another font are the proposed additions to the brand book. All volunteer organizations will be required to only use the brand book in the future.

**Motion to approve revisions to the branding and marketing tools as presented: W. Clark, Second: D. Light, APPROVED: Unanimously**

11. Discuss, consider, and approve engagement of Kara Belew and Tenet Leadership for Board training- **TABLED**
12. Discuss and consider an update on the Cypress Campus, including but not limited to enrollment, facilities, renovations, leadership team, and faculty. – Mr. Pertuso reported that enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is 455 students, bringing Cypress to full capacity. Elevator repairs are still underway and should be completed by August 10. There were some classroom modifications underway and the Lawson Center is complete. 17 positions have been filled, with 5 remaining vacancies, including two special education paraprofessionals, 6-8 grade math, and a Special Education Teacher. Teachers have begun setting up their classrooms.
13. Discuss and consider an update on the Katy Grammar School, including but not limited to enrollment, facilities, renovations, leadership team, and faculty.- Ms. Polvogt reported that remediation is going well and should be completed next week. There are current vacancies for computer and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers.
14. Discuss and consider an update on the Katy Logic & Rhetoric Schools, including but not limited to enrollment, facilities, renovations, leadership team, and faculty.- Some water damage in the portables is being addressed. The position of General Education Counselor is still unfilled.
15. Adjournment to closed or executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 of the Open Meetings Act, for the following purposes: **7:42 pm**
  - a. To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, and duties of new Superintendent
16. Reconvened to open session at 8:16 pm.
17. Take action on matters discussed in closed session.

**Motion to Approve the Superintendent Job Description: L. Botond, Second: W. Clark, APPROVED: Unanimously**

18. Discuss items to be placed on the August Regular Meeting Agenda.
  - a. Lone Star Governance
  - b. 2023-2024 Budget and Budget Amendment
  - c. Website Services
  - d. Charter Amendment to revise Org Chart
  - e. Safety Update
19. **Motion to Adjourn: A. Cox, Second: W. Clark, APPROVED: Unanimously**  
Adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Prepared by C. Gillespie

This is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on July 17, 2023 as approved by the Board of Directors on August 21, 2023.

  
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Lucina Botond, Board President