

The Autism Model School
Approved Board Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2013

Attending: Raj Parikh, Carl Windnagle, Mark Greenblatt, Lisa Marsalek, Jim Rothschild

Excused: Sherry Moyer, Edward Cancio, Mary Murray

Also Present: Apryl Morin, Sponsor Representative; Mary Walters, Director; Emilie Richardson, ESC of Lake Erie West, Kali Kowalski, School Receptionist/Recorder of the Minutes.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. Welcome and Public Commentary

Debbie Lay spoke on behalf of all van drivers requesting a raise in hourly compensation. She stated that they are open for some negotiation and she suggested the idea of possibly considering compensation for the ten weeks the van drivers do not get compensated due to the school being closed, or some other means of compensation such as rewarding longevity at some rate.

II. Board Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2013. Discussion/Approval.

Motion to approve the minutes with the correction of listing Mark Greenblatt as an excused member on the attendance portion of the minutes.

1. Carl Windnagle

2. Lisa Marsalek

Vote: Yes – Parikh, Windnagle, Marsalek, Rothschild

Abstain: Greenblatt

i. The motion carries.

III. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

1. January Budget

Raj Parikh would like to remove line #44 because it is being provided as part of the school's lease agreement.

2. January Variance Report

Mark Greenblatt mentioned that the school is below budget around \$71,000, even though revenue is down close to \$165,000. Mark also suggests we come up with a system for an overview of the budget giving one number for total receipts, salary, etc. so that the budget is easier to read.

3. Fiscal Agent's Budget Report for AMS

Raj Parikh would like to see percentages of each number so that the board can get a better idea of where the school can cut costs, etc.

Motion to approve the January, 2013 budget:

1. Windnagle
2. Marsalek

Vote: Yes, unanimous—Parikh, Windnagle, Marsalek, Rothschild, Greenblatt.

B. Curriculum Committee

1. Update on TeachTown and Direct Instruction Curricula

Mary Walters states that AMS will be implementing Direct Instruction beginning April 15, 2013. The school teachers will be training on March 28, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Textbooks provided will guide teachers through the lessons giving specifics on what to say/ask for each lesson. Mary directed the board members to the board packet additions outlining the flow of students and teachers throughout the day in various time slots for various subjects.

2. Update on State Instructional Improvement System (IIS)

Mary mentioned briefly that the IIS will allow access to curricula other than the curricula AMS adopts. This will make the teachers' job of differentiating instruction easier. The IIS will also coordinate data on students, classrooms and teachers, and provide individual and aggregate analyses of performance.

C. Strategic Planning Committee

The board discussed the possibility of partnering with the Autism Academy of Learning (AAL) in the use/building of a new facility. Jim Sworden, board member from AAL will be in contact in late March to try to coordinate a small ad hoc committee to explore the possibility.

D. Policies and Procedures Committee

Emilie spoke regarding the wording of AMS' admissions procedures and requirements.

IV. Director's Report

The school's website was discussed as well as the new presence on Facebook. Kali Kowalski was introduced as an addition to the administrative team. Also discussed was the importance of offering differentiated instruction to special education students; ODE now offers different curricula online. The board reviewed Joel Vidovic's (Behavior Management Director) groupings for direct instruction.

As part of the Director's report turnover rates for paraprofessionals were reviewed; the school is currently at 22 since the summer 2012. The board suggests performing exit interviews and how raising the salary offered to paraprofessionals will not be enough to decrease the turnover rate.

The special education profile and the requirements not met were discussed. The state does not want special education being offered in separate facilities. The graduation and drop-out rate is an issue due to schooling being offered to students up until age 22. This will affect our state school report card.

V. Old Business
Nothing presented.

VI. New Business
Motion to reschedule next board meeting for Monday, March 18, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

1. Mark Greenblatt
2. James Rothschild

Vote: Yes – Unanimous – Parikh, Windnagle, Greenblatt, Marsalek, Rothschild

Motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.:

1. James Rothschild
2. Lisa Marsalek

Vote: Yes – Unanimous – Parikh, Windnagle, Greenblatt, Marsalek, Rothschild