

**The Autism Model School
Board Meeting Minutes
February 18th, 2025**

Meeting Start: 5:30 PM

Attending: Bruce Weinberg, Linell Weinberg, Lisa Marsalek, Kim Veizer, Toni Gerber, Mark Greenblatt, Kathleen Cott-Johnson

Excused: Jim Rothschild, Raj Parikh, Isaac Demarest

Also Attending: Joel Vidovic, Executive Director; Marcus Flynn – Recorder of Minutes; Jessica Bair, Sponsor Representative - ESC Lake Erie West

Meeting began at 5:30 PM

I. Agenda

- a. Discussion and approval.
 - i. **Motion to approve the February agenda as written:**
 - 1. **Weinberg, L.**
 - 2. **Greenblatt**
 - a. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**

II. Welcome and Public Comments

- a. None to present

III. Minutes

- a. Discussion and approval of minutes from the November 2024 board meeting.
 - i. **Motion to approve the November 2024 Minutes as written:**
 - 1. **Greenblatt**
 - 2. **Marsalek**
 - a. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**

IV. Standing Reports

- a. Financial Report
 - i. The Board reviewed and discussed the November 2024 financial report.
 - 1. **Motion to approve November 2024 Financial reports:**
 - a. **Marsalek**
 - b. **Greenblatt**
 - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**
 - ii. The Board reviewed and discussed the December 2024 financial report.
 - 1. **Motion to approve December 2024 Financial reports:**

- a. **Gerber**
 - b. **L. Weinberg**
 - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**
 - iii. The Board reviewed and discussed the January 2025 financial report.
 - 1. **Motion to approve January 2025 Financial reports:**
 - a. **Marsalek**
 - b. **L. Weinberg**
 - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**
- b. Sponsor Representative Report
- i. Jessica Bair presented the Sponsor Representative Report for February 2024
 - ii. There were no questions.
 - iii. January site visit went well.
 - iv. The monthly site visit will be Friday February 21st, 2025
- c. Policies and Procedures
- i. Resolution to waive the requirement that the governing authority is the party responsible to employ or contract with the designated fiscal officer
 - 1. Reviewed and Discussed
 - a. **Motion to waive the requirement that the governing authority is the party responsible to employ or contract with the designated fiscal officer – ORC-3320.04:**
 - i. **Gerber**
 - ii. **Veizer**
 - 1. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**
 - 2. Policy regarding Religious Expression
 - a. Reviewed and Discussed
 - i. **Motion to approve Policy 6.16 - Religious Expression:**
 - 1. **Greenblatt**
 - 2. **L. Weinberg**
 - a. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**
 - 3. Policy regarding Political Beliefs
 - a. Reviewed and Discussed
 - i. **Motion to approve Policy 18.07 - Political Beliefs:**
 - 1. **Greenblatt**
 - 2. **L. Weinberg**

- a. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**

V. Director’s Report

- a. Staffing Update for November 2024
 - i. Reviewed and Discussed
 - 1. **Motion to approve the November 2024 Staff Changes:**
 - a. **Marsalek**
 - b. **Weinberg, L.**
 - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**
- b. Staffing Update for December 2024
 - i. Reviewed and Discussed
 - 1. **Motion to approve the December 2024 Staff Changes:**
 - a. **Greenblatt**
 - b. **Weinberg, L.**
 - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**
- c. Staffing Update for January 2025
 - i. Reviewed and Discussed
 - 1. **Motion to approve the January 2025 Staff Changes:**
 - a. **Gerber**
 - b. **Weinberg, L.**
 - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**
- d. Current Funding
 - i. Annual funding projections showed a small increase from January to February. This is the result of an increase in number of enrolled students who qualify for special education services under category 6 (autism). We had also previously shown two students in our system who were not being reported as special education. We were finally able to fix these issues.
 - ii. This month’s payment report reflected enrollment of 94.41 students, a small increase from the previous month. This is the result of 1 student aging out of our program in mid-December and the enrollment of two new students on January 7th.
 - iii. This months’ State payment report reflects an increase in Cat 6 FTE with decreases noted in Cat 2. We believe this increase is the result of two students who were previously not appearing as qualifying for special education services paired with what we believe were data entry errors that were corrected as we shifted our program into PowerSchool.
- e. Software Update
 - i. Working with team from BGSU to complete formal write-up of the study that was completed this fall. First draft of the manuscript is complete. We anticipate that the manuscript will be finalized and submitted for publication in

The Journal of Autism and Developmental Disabilities before the end of February.

- ii. Working with Alison Thomas (Director of Transition Services) to develop a comprehensive “Housekeeping” training program within IDAPT. We’ve constructed a mock-hotel room in the annex building. Students will eventually utilize the program to learn to complete various steps within a hotel “housekeeping” task including: Changing bedding, vacuuming dusting a room, laundry, cleaning a guest bathroom, restocking bathroom supplies (i.e. toilet paper, soaps, lotions, etc.), restocking a coffee kiosk station (i.e. teas, coffees, cups, etc.)
- f. Security Fundraiser
 - i. Online fundraiser initiative to support security enhancements raised \$3635 across 34 donors.
 - 1. Thank you to all Board Members who shared the fundraiser and/or contributed!
- g. GRANT UPDATES- SUBMITTED
 - i. Stranahan Supporting Organization Grant- Greater Toledo Community Foundation (GTCF)
 - 1. AMS was awarded a \$50,000 from GTCF grant to support our summer learning program.
 - 2. Funds were deposited in December.
 - ii. Building Hope: Impact Awards
 - 1. Application submitted in November for consideration of an award in the category of Education Innovation.
 - 2. Application focused on highlighting three innovative programs within our school:
 - a. Direct Instruction for learners with Autism, IDAPT, E-Commerce job training program.
 - 3. Charter Schools who understand innovation is creating new, fresh, and out-of-anybox programs and services for students are the targets for this grant. True growth and innovation requires risk-taking and focused determination to achieve. These schools demonstrate that nothing is impossible.
 - a. 3 schools will be recognized within this category
 - i. 1st place: \$20,000
 - ii. 2nd and 3rd: \$10,000
 - 4. AMS was notified that we are a Semi-Finalist (top 10) in January. We should learn if we’ve made it to the finals (top 5) during the week of February 17th.
 - iii. Toledo Rotary Foundation
 - 1. Submitted a \$10,000 request targeting upgrades to our PAES Lab (Practical Assessment and Exploration System) Program. Distributions awarded in beginning of April.
 - iv. Baumker Foundation Grant
 - 1. Submitted \$5000 request to support Summer Learning Program. We received \$4500 for the Summer Learning Program.
 - v. Key Bank Foundation

1. Submitted \$2000 request to support this years' Prom. Received a \$500 award to support Prom.
- vi. OH Attorney General School Safety Grant
 1. Submitted a \$40,000 grant request to support security upgrades. Grant would offset the costs of interior door upgrades.
- h. GRANT UPDATES- COMING UP
 - i. John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation
 1. Awards up to \$30,000. We were a recipient in the Summer of 2024. Submission deadline is March 25th, 2025. Planning to seek additional funding for Summer Learning Program.
 - ii. Katherine R. Smith Fund (GTCF)
 1. Awards grants "over \$3,000" for existing (or new) programs that enhance the lives of young people under the age of 18 who live in Lucas or Wood county. Will likely request \$5000-\$8000.
 - iii. Bill Rowles Youth Fund (GTCF)
 1. Awards grants "under \$3000" for programs that enhance the lives of young people under the age of 21. Prioritizes organizations that serve youth who have had contact with juvenile justice system, experienced school suspension, or have other behavioral challenges. Will likely request between \$2000-\$3000.
- i. OTHER NEWS
 - i. Talent Show- Autism Model School's first talent show was held on December 17th. There were 18 different acts, a LOT of excited students, and many happy tears on the faces of AMS staff.

VI. Transportation Directors Report

- a. Transportation Director Report was reviewed and discussed.

VII. Old Business

- a. Sunshine Law Training
 - i. Reviewed and Discussed
 - ii. 4 of 10 Board Members are now compliant for current year

VIII. New Business

- a. ESCLEW Renewal Contract
 - i. Reviewed and Discussed
 1. **Motion to approve the ESCLEW Renewal Contract:**
 - a. **Marsalek**
 - b. **Weinberg, L.**
 - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**
- b. 2025-2026 AMS Calendar
 - i. Reviewed and Discussed
 1. **Motion to approve the 2025-2026 AMS Calendar:**
 - a. **Veizer**

- b. **Weinberg, L.**
 - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**
- c. 2026-2027 AMS Calendar
 - i. Reviewed and Discussed
 - 1. **Motion to approve the 2026-2027 AMS Calendar:**
 - a. **Veizer**
 - b. **Weinberg, L.**
 - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**
- d. Bathroom and Hallway Floors Stripped and Waxed
 - i. Reviewed and Discussed
 - 1. **Motion to approve the quote by Sunshine Services to strip and wax the school hallways and restrooms:**
 - a. **Greenblatt**
 - b. **Weinberg, L.**
 - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**
- e. Tree Trimming on Parish Grounds
 - i. Reviewed and discussed
 - 1. **Motion to approve up to \$15,000 for tree trimming services:**
 - a. **Gerber**
 - b. **Weinberg, L.**
 - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber**

Motion to adjourn at 6:21 PM

- 1. **Greenblatt**

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18th, 2025 at 5:30pm. The meeting will be held at the office of Mark Greenblatt, located at 7150 W. Central Avenue, Ste. 100 Toledo, Ohio 43617