

Augsburg Fairview Academy

Minutes for Board Meeting

April 15, 2011

Members Present: Anne Kaufman, Sue Hageness, Laura Beeth, Heidi Anderson, Ron Bentley, Lori Walz, Bart Johnson, Jess Niemand

Ex Officio: Bill Spira, Executive Director

Guests: Jill Moline, School Business Solutions; Chris Brown, Augsburg College

1. Dr. Kaufman called the meeting to order at 12:39 PM.
2. VOTED to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2011 meeting.
3. Financial Report was dispensed with, In keeping with the board's decision at its last meeting to alter the schedule of financial reporting, the monthly report as of March 31, 2011, will be presented at the regular board meeting.
4. Executive Director's Report
 1. Dr. Spira reviewed the status of state funding for FY2012 and suggested that the legislature continues to appear unlikely to make major changes in K-12 funding for the coming year. A recent article on charter school financing in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune indicates that members of the legislature are noticing the financial strains specific to charter schools in the current budget and that there may be further legislation to protect current levels of support and, perhaps, increase it slightly.
 2. The Academy's enrollment, which has been growing consistently since early October, peaked last month and, now, has been reduced by dis-enrolling students who have not been in attendance. At this point, AFA's enrollment has stabilized at 120. This is sufficient to ensure that the current budget will remain balanced for the remainder of the fiscal year.
 3. The Academy is increasing its recruiting presence at five K-8 charter schools that hold high potential as feeder schools for next year's 9th grade class. The list includes: Odyssey Academy, Southside Family, Cedar Riverside, Richard Allen Science & Math Academy, and Millenium Academy. The goal for next year for the College Fast Track program is to enroll 90 students in traditional classrooms: 30 students in the 9th grade, 30 in 10th grade, and 30 in 11th/12th grade. We are looking into the potential of offering a traditional school bus route for 9th grade students if that will attract more enrollments. In addition to CFT, the goal for the Self-Directed Learning program is to enroll 30-40 students and an equal number for the Connections program. The latter is being re-structured with a stronger focus on its potential function as a dropout recovery strategy.
 4. Dr. Spira introduced the tentative FY2012 budget worksheet and distributed copies for directors to review in the coming month.
5. Inside Directors' Report – The following issues were briefly presented
 1. Wellness policy was explained by Ms. Niemand, who distributed a draft policy that will be submitted for board action at its next meeting.

2. Awards Night will be held on Thursday, April 28, and will include History Day projects, a catered meal, and the awards ceremony.
3. Thirty AFA students visited the Augsburg College campus on April 4
4. Among AFA students who completed the Accuplacer testing at Minnesota Community and Technical College, 19 scored well enough to be eligible to take college-level courses (PSEO) in the 2011-12 school year.
5. A field trip for interested students to the U of M Rochester/Mayo Clinic is scheduled for May 13.
6. Graduation is scheduled for June 5 at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary of the old Messiah Church.
6. Discussion concerning re-authorization of AFA charter by Augsburg College – Chris Brown reported that Augsburg College's application to continue to be a charter school authorizer, which was submitted to the MN Dept. of Education in February, is moving through the necessary review steps. These included his recent meeting with an MDE panel that reviewed the application and a meeting between the same panel and directors of the charter schools that Augsburg College authorizes. Dr. Spira and Dr. Kaufmann from AFA participated in the latter meeting. Dr. Brown discussed a few issues that will need to be included as AFA's renewal contract is written:
 1. The new contract will have greater detail concerning school mission, board functioning, and standards for teachers.
 2. Financial oversight is being significantly increased as a reflection of authorizers assuming greater responsibility for school performance.
 3. Augsburg College would like to make all of its renewal contracts for a term of five years, if possible.
 4. Dr. Brown mentioned his recent participation in the National Youth Leadership Conference and his interest in promoting service-learning initiatives to help with dropout prevention.Dr. Kaufmann and Dr. Spira reported that the MDE review panel meeting they attended focused mainly on the issue of what the schools needed to do and show in order to be accepted by Augsburg College as their authorizer. Participants in this meeting stressed the excellent support that Augsburg College has given to the schools it authorizes in terms of experimenting with new ways to meet the needs of students who are currently not succeeding in traditional schools.
7. Discussion of institutional roles and responsibilities of Outside Directors – Board members discussed the involvement and liability of the institutions with which they were affiliated, particularly Augsburg College and Fairview Health Service, which are specifically included in the AFA by-laws. With respect to liability, the board understands that liability generally falls on the directors as individuals and not on the institutions that employ them, and that the Academy is required to provide liability insurance for its directors. The discussion, then, moved to the question of what the school and board need from the institutions represented among its Outside Directors. The board understood that this was, to some extent, an evolving question and that specific forms of institutional support and involvement will continue to be identified as needs and opportunities arise.

8. Board Actions
 1. APPROVED, unanimously, the school calendar for 2011-2012 following a motion by Dr. Spira and second by Ms. Hageness.
 2. TOOK UNDER CONSIDERATION a proposal to amend the by-laws to incorporate language formally defining the Professional Partnership, following a motion by Dr. Spira and second by Ms. Anderson. Subsequently, it was moved by Dr. Spira with a second by Ms. Hageness to postpone further consideration until the May meeting. The motion to postpone was APPROVED unanimously.
 3. TOOK UNDER CONSIDERATION a proposal to adopt a conflict of interest disclosure form, following a motion by Dr. Spira and second by Ms. Anderson. Subsequently, it was moved by Dr. Spira with a second by Ms. Hageness to postpone further consideration until the May meeting. The motion to postpone was APPROVED unanimously.
9. The next meeting of the board was confirmed for Friday, May 20, at 12:00 pm in the AFA conference room.
10. Dr. Kaufmann adjourned the meeting at 2:30PM

Secretary: Bart Johnson