

**ALLIANCE CHARTER ACADEMY
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

January 29, 2025

(Approved February 12, 2025)

A. CALL TO ORDER

- a. The Governing Board of Alliance Charter Academy met in Work Session (Staff Input) on January 29, 2025 at 5:00pm in the ACA Cafeteria
- b. Present from the Board were Tara McLaughlin , Sarah Reck-Secunda , Robert Bruders , Lindsey Skones, Darla Hall, Lauree Ortman, Ann Heppner
- c. Also present were Shelly Smith, Meg Snyder, Jana Holland, Margo Edinger, Katie McNeil, Denise Dille, Morgen Kelm, David Furguson, Kathleen Cantrell, Karen Downing, Tutti Souders, Laurie Phelan, Tracey Edson, Darian Forrette, David Toth, Anna Trobaugh, Julie Pen, Drew Holland, Shannon MEade, Colleen Filippello, Margaret Hespen, Chase Emmerson, Renee Elting, Nhia Yang, Rosemary Buzcowski, Kari Birdsley, Amanda Castellano, Carly Carruthers, Fred Folger-Vent, Erin Holman, Jilene Modlin, Lori Rux, Shallon Smith
- d. Tara called the meeting to order at 5:16pm.

B. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Staff Input Meeting - Housekeeping Information
 - i. Attendance Sheet for all attendees to sign-in upon arrival
 - ii. Food and beverages for staff attendees
 - iii. Staff questions can be submitted via QR code or asked live
 1. QR code will be live during meeting
 2. Time for questions after each presentation topic
 - iv. Public Input Conduct Statement
 - v. Shelly Smith - Opening remarks
- b. [Slideshow Presentation](#)
 - i. Staff Engagement Survey results - Tara McLaughlin
 1. Questions/Comments/Suggestions
 - a. Suggestion - Allow documents to be viewed in live board meetings, if possible, so that viewers aren't in the dark about discussion topics.
 - b. Suggestion - Timestamp on meeting notes on various meeting topics for ease of finding topics in recording.
 - c. Suggestion - Posting "draft" notes before official notes are approved.
 - ii. Explanation of ACA funding and 25-26 Budget timeline - Shelly Smith and Robert Bruders
 1. Questions/Comments/Suggestions

- a. Comment - July is too late for teachers to apply for other jobs if the ACA salary offered is inadequate.
- b. Question - What is the plan for the executive director?
- c. Question - What if teachers do not propose classes because they are unsure of the compensation package? What happens to the program?
- d. Comment - Keep in mind that ACA is evaluated by our Smarter Balance scores.
- e. Comment - Messaging to teachers is that we need fun and exciting classes, yet ACA students still need to learn. With the lack of prep pay, teachers are looking at proposing fluffy classes with less prep.
- f. Questions - Will some classes go back to an hour and a half? (This is an admin, rather than a board, decision.)
- g. Comment - I think it is important to have some additional information/input from admin before class proposals. I will propose different classes if I continue to not be paid for the prep, meetings, and grading that is currently required for my high school classes. Should we consider a separate meeting regarding this?
- h. Comment - 5-8 years ago, prep time was based on what each individual teacher needed for each individual class, as decided with the administration.
- i. Comment - Our population has changed, and it is critical to have the support of the comprehensive classes/specialists.
- j. Comment - It has been difficult for MS teachers to change to hour long classes. They still feel the weight of the instruction.

iii. Discussion of 23-24 Compensation Structure

1. Questions/Comments/Suggestions

- a. Question - How much has the increased enrollment impacted the budget?
- b. Question - Are we going to stick with the Cardinal services for payroll?
- c. Comment - Just FYI, the survey Danelle sent out for Prep was given to individuals, asking to estimate hours spent on prep beyond what we were paid for, but to my understanding, those numbers were then averaged and distributed per department (not per individual). I never received xprep that actually reflected the hours I put in (or reported, which honestly was always a lowball estimate). I think the important thing for me was that we were being

asked how much extra prep we were routinely doing, and there was some sort of compensation for it, even if it wasn't enough. I understand why it was removed, but I wanted to clarify the board's understanding of the process (as I remember it).

- iv. Discussion of current salary structure
 - 1. Questions/Comments/Suggestions
 - a. Question - If we get the grant that the surveys were a part of, is there a chance that salaries would be adjusted next year or would that only affect future years?
- v. Overview of 2020-2027 timeline (documents distributed to staff)
 - 1. Questions/Comments/Suggestions
 - a. Question - How long is the charter agreement?
- vi. Roles and Responsibilities of Board members
 - 1. Questions/Comments/Suggestions
 - a. None
- c. Documents to be printed for attendees - All links in slideshow
 - i. Division of Duties
 - ii. Timeline of Events - 2020-2025

C. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm by Tara

D. NEXT MEETING

- a. Strategic Planning - February 1, 2025 from 11:00am-4:00pm
- b. Regular Session - February 12, 2025 at 6:00pm
- c. [24-25 Meeting Schedule Link](#)

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey Skones, Board Secretary