

**Regular Joint Meeting of the
High Desert “Partnership in Academic Excellence” Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors
Academy for Academic Excellence School Board Committee and
Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy School Board Committee**

**Minutes
December 9, 2013**

1.0 Call to Order

Chairman Bud Biggs called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

2.0 Roll Call

Foundation Board Members David Bains, Duberly Beck, Bud Biggs, Jack Hamilton, Andrew Jaramillo, Scott Johnson, Kirtland Mahlum, Jose Palafox, Kevin Porter, Donna Siegel, Russell Stringham and Rick Wolf were present.

Foundation Board Members Buck Goodspeed, Robert Lovingood, Marcia Vargas, and Regina Weatherspoon-Bell were absent.

AAE School Board Committee Members David Bains, Jose Palafox, Kevin Porter, Russell Stringham and Rick Wolf were present.

AAE School Board Committee Member Robert Lovingood was absent.

NSAA School Board Committee Members Duberly Beck, Andrew Jaramillo and Scott Johnson were present.

NSAA School Board Committee Member Marcia Vargas was absent.

Staff members Cheryl Dale, Guadalupe Girard, Rebecca McCoy, Stacy Newman, Rick Piercy, Toni Preciado, Jim Quinn, Paul Rosell, Gordon Soholt and Jim Southwick were also present.

3.0 Public Comments

AAE representatives Meghan Juarez and Tabitha Vaage presented upcoming AAE events.

4.0 Special Presentations/Announcements

.01 AFJROTC Evaluation – Colonel George Armstrong unable to attend

.02 AAE Common Core Expenditure Plan 2013-14 ~ Gordon Soholt and Jim Quinn shared that the State of California has allotted an extra \$200.00 per student to implement the new common core standards. Lisa Lamb shared that in the year 2013-2014, \$54,671.00 of these funds have or will be spent on Professional Development, \$1000.00 will go to Instructional Materials, and \$128,600.00 will go to Technology. The technology piece has already been spent to get more ELMO’s for K-6 and some secondary classes, to broaden the iPad stations in the primary grades, and to get new laptops for some teachers. The spending will leave approximately \$100,000.00 to be spent in the 2014-2015 school year, and the organization must use the funds or lose them.

.03 NSAA Common Core Expenditure Plan 2013-2014 ~ Guadalupe Girard shared that the funds that have come in for the Common Core implementation from the State have been allotted to Professional Development, books and consultations. On June 17th and 18th all NSAA teachers attended CCSA training for \$11,200.00. \$800.00 will be spent for PLC training, \$6,640.00 went toward GLAD training/planning in October 2013, \$3,200.00 will go toward PLC training, \$6,640.00 will go toward Non-Fiction leveled readers, \$560.00 will go toward Number Talks K-7, \$35,000.00 will go toward a new laptop cart for the 3rd grade level, and \$1,500.00 will go toward consulting with SBCSS.

5.0 Correspondence

.01 Desert Valley Hospital ~ The Prem Reddy Foundation donated \$125,000.00 for the water tower, gristmill and shade structure on AAE's Mojave River Campus. Rick Piercy shared that the water tower will have Prem Reddy's name on it to commemorate his gracious donation.

6.0 Discussion Items

.01 College Campus ~ Rick Piercy shared that by 2015 the county will give \$9 million to complete the upgrades on the Mojave River Campus wash area so the organization can begin the building of the college campus. LCER will put a stop light at Highway 18.

.02 Split Locations for the Foundation Board Meeting ~ Discussions were held in regards to allowing video conferencing for the Foundation Board Meetings in the future. David Kenneally stated that it is feasible as long as there are only two locations for the conferencing. Scott Johnson stated he was not in favor of the video conferencing because he feels it is important that the entire board get together at least twice per year, and that he feels the full Board needs to travel to NSAA to see the students and the school that they support to feel connected. Russ Stringham stated that he is in support of the video conferencing because it is occasionally difficult to get away from his personal business duties the two days per year he has to travel down to San Bernardino, because he has to take an entire day to do so. Kirtland Mahlum agreed that for some, it is difficult to leave their businesses for the amount of time it takes for the Foundation Board Meetings held out of their general area. David Bains shared that the video conferencing may help with better attendance of San Bernardino representatives if they don't have to drive and that it may also help in having more people willing to join the board. Kevin Porter would like to see there is a requirement that each board member must attend at least one full board meeting in person at each campus. Rick Wolf shared that he would like to see every meeting streamed.

.03 Offering a Supplementary Retirement Plan ~ Jim Quinn shared that the supplementary retirement plan would be for certificated staff only because it is not cost effective for classified staff. He has been in contact with PARS, who presented a retirement plan along with the costs associated. He has also been in contact with a second company to receive a proposal, however the results of that proposal will not be in until December 15th, 2013. He further explained that if accepted, the Budget/Audit Committee would like to have the Foundation Board approve or disapprove the use of the retirement plan on an annual basis so it can be determined if the plan will be profitable for the upcoming year. The current plan for the upcoming school year would need to be voted on in at the March Foundation Board Meeting or at a Special Meeting. Kirtland Mahlum asked what the fees for the program would be, and Jim Quinn responded that it is 5% with PARS, and unknown for the other company. Kevin Porter questioned what the impact on operations would be due to the loss of long term personnel and Jim Quinn responded that out of

the 20 employees that would qualify, it is expected that only about 5 will take part. A minimum of 5 employees would have to be set to make the program beneficial. The organization would anticipate saving approximately \$100,000.00 over a 5 year term. Stacy Newman requested that Human Resources find out before the summer time if the anticipated 5 people are retiring so that HR can begin hiring prior to the summer rush for new employees. Gordon Soholt stated that though these staff members retire from AAE, they are still eligible to work for other districts.

.04 Banking Changes Based on Audit Recommendation ~ Jim Quinn explained that the Business Office just completed their Annual Audit. There were 2 audit findings that required formal responses and 3 that did not require a formal response. He will email the audit to all the board members so they can review it. The two findings that required a formal response were due to internal controls. David Kenneally should not have access to the bank accounts, and that any banking changes must be brought before the board for approval.

7.0 Information

.01 Staff reports ~ included in the packet.

.02 President/CEO Report ~ Rick Piercy reported that ROTC is currently going through an evaluation. If all goes well, Colonel Armstrong will be able to nominate students to go to the military academies of their choice. He reported that the Corwin/TBC move to the MRC campus is still moving forward and the work on the Tuscola stop light is underway. Further there is a hearing on December 10th with the Apple Valley Town Council in regards to the issue with traffic on Mana Road. In regards to NSAA, Rick Piercy reported that on December 16th San Bernardino City will begin working on the median on Central. Further reported was that NelNet approached the organization for a joint venture for the K-16 Bridge program, and GAVRT has picked up another NASA project.

.03 AAE Principal's Report ~ included in the packet

.04 NSAA Principal's Report ~ included in the packet

8.0 Standing Board Committee Reports

- .01 (a) Budget/Audit Committee** – Russell Stringham reported that the interest rate swap is at approximately 5% and the interest rate is locked in for 20 years.
- (b) Fundraising Committee** – Donna Siegel reported that the Festival of the Arts brought in \$25,482.00 with an expense of \$3,780.00. The art shows and the teddy bear sales have brought in \$49,537.00 total which will help with scholarships. The fundraising committee will have their next meeting early 2014.
- (c) Personnel Committee** – Stacy Newman reported that there is no report other than Rick Piercy's evaluation which will be done in closed session at the end of the meeting.

9.0 Staff Comments

Gordon Soholt stated that he and AAE Principal Lisa Lamb took a trip to China. They signed 3 sister school agreements with schools in China. AAE has had 3 Chinese Visitors that like the way AAE is ran. He further stated that NSAA had their fall review last week and the report will be ready for review in February 2014. He informed the Board that Congressman Paul Cook met with the AAE students on the gym opening date.

10.0 Board Member Comments

None

11.0 Foundation Board Consent Agenda

On a motion by Kevin Porter, seconded by David Bains, vote 12-0, the Foundation Board of Directors approved Consent Agenda Items 11.01 – 11.05.

- .01 Approve Minutes of September 9, 2013 Regular Meeting
- .02 Approve July 1, 2013 through October 31, 2013 Financial Reports
- .03 Approve Foundation Financial Reports for August 2013, September 2013 and October 2013
- .04 Approve Resolution 2013-01 – SELF Withdraw Resolution for 2014-15
- .05 Approve NSAA Petty Cash Fund of \$200
- .06 Approve Credit Card for Lloyd Quarles with a \$1,000 Limit
- .07 Approve BP 4361 – Family Care & Medical Leave Revisions
- .08 Accept Resignation Letter from Jeff Lewis

12.0 Foundation Board Action Items

.01 On a motion by Kirtland Mahlum, seconded by Andrew Jaramillo, vote 12-0, the Foundation Board of Directors approved the renewal of terms for David Bains and Regina Bell.

.02 On a motion by Kirtland Mahlum, seconded by Andrew Jaramillo, vote 12-0, the Foundation Board of Directors approved the for the Foundation Board Officers to remain the same for the upcoming term, with the exception of Vice Chairman will now be Scott Johnson.

.03 On a motion by Kirtland Mahlum, seconded by David Bains, vote 12-0, the Foundation Board of Directors approved services by Parsons Brinkerhoff for predevelopment of the college campus.

13.0 AAE School Board Committee Consent Agenda

On a motion by David Bains, seconded by Jose Palafox, vote 5-0, the AAE School Board Committee approved Consent Agenda Items 13.01 – 13.05.

- .01 Approve Minutes of November 14, 2013 Regular Meeting
- .02 Approve AAE Comparatives – November 2013
- .03 Approve AAE 1st Interim Report
- .04 Approve AAE Varsity Boys Basketball Tournament Overnight Field Trip December 26-30, 2013 to Palm Springs, CA
- .05 Approve Resolution 2013-03 AAE Education Protection Account

14.0 NSAA School Board Committee Consent Agenda

On a motion by Andrew Jaramillo, seconded by Duberly Beck, vote 3-0, the NSAA School Board Committee approved Consent Agenda Items 14.01 – 14.04.

- .01 Approve Minutes of November 20, 2013 Regular Meeting

- .02 Approve NSAA Financial Report November 2013
- .03 Approve NSAA 1st Interim Report
- .04 Approve Resolution 2013-03 NSAA Education Protection Account

15.0 NSAA School Board Committee Action Items

- .01 The item of Approval of Modification to NSAA Charter: Section IV-C (School will serve grades K through 12) was tabled until a committee is formed to discuss the impact further.
- .02 On a motion by Duberly Beck, seconded by Andy Jaramillo, vote 3-0, the NSAA School Board Committee approved the Modification to NSAA Charter: Change to Renewal Application (Curriculum and Instruction Design).
- .03 On a motion by Duberly Beck, seconded by Andy Jaramillo, vote 3-0, the NSAA School Board Committee approved the Modification to NSAA Charter: Change to Renewal Application (Chinese as a Foreign/World Language).
- .04 Scott Johnson self nominated himself for the position of Chairman of the NSAA School Board. The nomination was approved on a motion by Duberly Beck and seconded by Andy Jaramillo.

16.0 Closed Session

- .01 Public Employee Performance Evaluation: President/CEO

Bud Biggs reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.

17.0 Adjournment

Chairman Biggs adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.