

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS REGULAR MEETING**  
**The Academy of Tucson**  
**March 4, 2024**

<b>10720 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Tucson, AZ 85748</b> <b>Conference Room</b>
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- I. **Call to Order:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.
- II. **Roll Call:**  
**Present:** Board Members:
  - Mr. Howard C. Stewart Jr.
  - Mrs. Marolyn Pierson
  - Mrs. Kirsten Stephens
  - Mr. James Persellin
  - Dr. George SokolOthers:
  - Mrs. Wendi Allardice, Superintendent
  - Mr. Michael Pavlich, High School Principal
  - Mrs. Paige Lincoln, Business Manager
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart led.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. requested a motion to approve the minutes for the board meeting held on February 5, 2024. Mrs. Marolyn Pierson moved and Mrs. Kirsten Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- V. **Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. requested a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. George Sokol moved and Mrs. Marolyn Pierson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- VI. **Call to the Public/Oral and Written Petitions:** None
- VII. **ACTION ITEMS:**
  - 1. **Approval: School Calendar SY 2024-2025** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. requested a motion to approve school calendar for SY2024-2025. Mrs. Kirsten Stephens moved and Mrs. Marolyn Pierson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Votes as follows:
    - Mrs. Marolyn Pierson – YES
    - Mrs. Kirsten Stephens – YES
    - Dr. George Sokol – YES
    - Mr. James Persellin – YES
  - 2. **Approval: Fees Schedule SY 2024-2025** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. requested a motion to approve the Fees schedule for SY 2024-

2025. Mr. James Persellin moved and Mrs. Kirsten Stephens seconded. Motion carries unanimously. Votes as follows:

- Mrs. Marolyn Pierson – YES
- Mrs. Kirsten Stephens – YES
- Dr. George Sokol – YES
- Mr. James Persellin – YES

**3. Approval: Budget Revision #1 SY 2023-2024** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. requested a motion to approve Budget Revision #1 for SY 2023-2024. Mrs. Marolyn Pierson moved and Dr. George Sokol seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Votes as follows:

- Mrs. Marolyn Pierson – YES
- Mrs. Kirsten Stephens – YES
- Dr. George Sokol – YES
- Mr. James Persellin – YES

### **VIII. Administrative Reports:**

**1. Board President, Mr. Howard C. Stewart Jr:** The Academy of Tucson received a notice from the Charter Association that 5 out of 9 categories are currently out of compliance. When looking further into the items, it was found by Mrs. Allardice that each category has a note under it about the changes that were made in January to meet compliance. The boxes however, are still showing uncompliant. Mrs. Allardice reached out to the office to inquire and official who can answer questions and possibly resolve the issue is out of the office for the week. Frustration among the board was shared and discussed around this notice continued for about 15 minutes.

**2. Superintendent, Mrs. Wendi Allardice:** The Academy Extravaganza was held on the morning of March 2<sup>nd</sup>. All schools were represented and there were music and theater performances as well as table displays representative of clubs and activities from each campus. The event was successful for retention, but may need to be adjusted to be successful for recruitment.

Cognia Accreditation review is complete and official reports should be sent out for each school in about a month.

State testing will begin after spring break and continue through the month of April.

The School Safety Plans and Emergency Operating Plans audit will be taking place beginning in April. Discussion around the safety of the Auditor General published detailed plans for schools publicly continued for about 20 minutes. Board members expressed their concern for students if our exact plans are published publicly.

March is full of upcoming field trips and events at each school.

- 3. High School Principal, Mr. Michael Pavlich:** Enrollment is up and strong for the upcoming year. 20 families attended the last open house and of the 20, 18 have enrolled. That leaves us with an estimated 178 students for high school next year. The goal is 180. With the school on the base closing, students have been turning to us when looking for a new school.

There will be some planned staff changes for the upcoming year. Jenna Allardice will move from science to the college and career advisor. David Balista, also science, will be retiring. Mark Hinirichs, dual-enrollment English, will be moving out of state at the end of the month. About 20 candidates have already applied for the English position after the ad only being listed for a week.

Cognia's 2 hour review interview went well. There were no surprises. The whole process brought staff together and a lot of great plans and material were created because of it.

Music program is busy this year. The guitar ensemble participated in an event in Phoenix and was the only guitar ensemble from all of Tucson. They performed well and received an "Excellent" rating. They went to Denver to participate in an event since their Flagstaff trip was cancelled due to weather. The music teacher has proposed having the guitar ensemble go on a trip to Spain where they would perform in multiple cities there.

The art program has also been very successful. Students have had art displayed at the Festival of Books, the Library, and the Tucson Arts Gallery.

Mr. Pavlich presented a senior's proposal to add two benches to the front of the school and add a gate in the fence where the sidewalk ends for an Eagle Scout Project. Discussion around how the student would go about doing this, if it would be approved by the scout master, and what pieces the school would need to play in facilitating the project. Overall the idea was accepted well. No decisions were made.

- 4. Business Manager, Mrs. Paige Lincoln:** Grants for the upcoming year are opening and we will be applying for additional grants this year. ESSER grant continues to be utilized. Enrollment is pretty steady. Our preliminary audit is scheduled for the end of April. We will qualify for a single audit this year due to the utilization of ESSER funds. Currently working on a more comprehensive and complete budget that can be utilized to help with decision making. The budget will also include a 5-year projection. Hoping this budget project will be done in May.

**IX. Consent Agenda:** Expense Vouchers #8, Payroll Vouchers #15 and #16. Mrs. Kirsten Stephens moved and Mr. James Persellin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**X. Board Remarks:** Mrs. Kirsten Stephens expressed her appreciation for the thank you notes given to her by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class for their dictionaries.

Discussion around the Sonoran Science Academy school on base closing and the reasons behind it commenced and lasted for about 10 minutes.

**XI. Adjournment:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 6:00 PM. The next meeting will be April 1, 2024 at 4:30pm in the conference room.

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**March 4, 2024**

**Paige Lincoln, Business Manager**

**Date Board Approved**