

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS REGULAR MEETING**  
**The Academy of Tucson**  
**February 1, 2021**

<b>Internet "Zoom"</b> <b>Board Participation</b>
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- I. **Call to Order:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.
- II. **Roll Call: Present:** Board Members, Mr. Howard C. Stewart Jr. Ms. Kathleen Friedman, Dr. George Sokol, Mr. Ivan English, Kirsten Stephens and Superintendent Mr. Jose Garcia. Ms. Bennie Gemello, Business Manager. Guests: Mrs. Wendi Allardice (HS Principal), Mr. Joshua Hancock (ES Principal), Mr. Willie Henry (MS Principal) and Mrs. Devonne Weaver (MS Teacher).
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Dispensed
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. requested a motion to approve the minutes for the board meeting held on January 4, 2021. Dr. George Sokol moved and Mr. Ivan English seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- V. **Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. requested a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Kirsten Stephens moved and Ms. Katheleen Friedman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- VI. **Call to the Public/Oral and Written Petitions:** None
- VII. **ACTION ITEMS:**
  - a. Approval: Establish School Community Development Director. Full time position (12 months). Primary job to increase the student body size of the Academy of Tucson. Ms. Katheleen Friedman moved ad Mr. Ivan English seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
  - b. Approval: Establish a hiring committee compromising of 2 Board Members and the 3 Principals for the School Community Development Director. Kirsten Stephens will be chairperson of this committee. Ms. Katheleen Friedman moved and Mr. Ivan English seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- VIII. **Administrative Reports:**
  - a. Superintendent, Mr. Jose Garcia:
    - i. Teacher contracts will be returned by Friday, February 5, 2021. This will dictate our future actions for replacements for next school year.

- ii. Math testing at the Middle school for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders were implemented. This is to align with the AZ State standards. This gives the teachers a tool to measure which students will need intervention necessary to comply with the State.
  - iii. The Elementary School's Math testing starts 2/8/21 and 2/9/21. Teacher training is ongoing to prepare for the testing.
  - iv. COVID-19 Update: Currently no positive test throughout each school sites. Encouraged all staffs to sign up for the vaccine. Mr. Garcia is providing a letter confirming personnel working for the Academy allowing the eligibility for the vaccine for the group 1B.
- b.** Mrs. Wendi Allardice, SPED Director gave a report on the National Food Program.
- What is NSLP:
- i. Federally assisted meal program for low-cost or no-cost lunches.
  - ii. Families/children qualify for free or reduced lunch based on household income and family size.
  - iii. Reimbursement for participating schools
- Requirements:
- iv. Must provide meals that meet the daily and weekly requirements set out by USDA and Ade can do so through a caterer.
  - v. Must keep documentation on file to support eligibility
  - vi. Must verify eligibility of children from a sample of household applications.
  - vii. Must ensure all requirements of the General program area set forth by ADE are met.
  - viii. Signed agreement is confirmation we will follow all guidelines
- Benefits to Academy of Tucson:
- ix. Provide nutritious meals for current student population
  - x. Retain students who experience hardship especially from economic consequences of COVID
  - xi. Reimbursement is provided the same month the claim is submitted.
  - xii. Positive school improvement and student performance when basic needs are met.
  - xiii. Increased enrollment.
- Questions:
- xiv. Is food served when school is not in session? No
  - xv. Where does the money come from? Academy of Tucson will pay for meals and be reimbursed the same month from the State.

xvi. Are additional items needed for storage of food: Currently, our caterer brings food in a timely manner where storage is not needed. The Elementary and Middle Schools have storage options if necessary.

- c. Business Manager, Ms. Bennie Gemello:
- i. All bank reconciliations completed
  - ii. Current with accounts payable.
  - iii. Reimbursement Requests for IDEA Basic, Title I grant is ongoing.
  - iv. The W-2's and 1099's were distributed.
  - v. Tax Credit receipts is ongoing since the State has the same guidelines and deadline for the community to donate to the school. April 15, 2021.
  - vi. Our actual enrollment numbers were uploaded to the state for 1/22/2021. Kinder through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade = 195, 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade = 203, 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade = 156 total 554.

**IX. Consent Agenda:** Expense Vouchers #7 and Payroll Vouchers #13 and 14. Mrs. Kirsten Stephens moved and Mr. Ivan English seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**XII. Adjournment:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 6:32PM. The next meeting will be Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5:00 pm. This will also be through "ZOOM".

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**February 1, 2021**

**Bennie Gemello, Business Manager**

**Date Board Approved**