

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS REGULAR MEETING**  
**The Academy of Tucson**  
**January 10, 2022**

<b>10720 E. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Street, Tucson, AZ 85748</b> <b>Room 202</b>
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- I. Call to Order:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
- II. Roll Call: Present:** Board Members, Mr. Howard C. Stewart Jr. Mr. Ivan English, Kirsten Stephens, Mrs. Marolyn Pierson and Dr. George Sokol and Mrs. Wendi Allardice, Superintendent and Ms. Bennie Gemello, Business Manager and Ms. Holly Halstead, Marketing & Recruitment Director. Guest: Willie Henry, MS Principal
- III. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart led.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. requested a motion to approve the corrected minutes for the board meeting held on December 6, 2021. Mrs. Marolyn Pierson moved and Dr. George Sokol 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 Mrs. Marolyn Pierson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- VI. Call to the Public/Oral and Written Petitions: None**
- VII. ACTION ITEMS:** School Calendar Year 2022-2023 . Mr. Howard C. Stewart Jr. requested a motion to approve the action item. Mrs. Marolyn Pierson moved and Dr. George Sokol seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- VIII. Administrative Reports:**
  - a. Board President, Mr. Howard C. Stewart Jr:** None
  - b. Superintendent, Mrs. Wendi Allardice**
    - i. COVID update: Covid cases in Arizona and Pima County are increasing. We saw more students getting sick at the end of the semester/year who needed to be out for at least 5 days. Pima County’s most recent resolution requires face coverings indoors which we are complying with at each campus. We continue to be diligent with any student who is not feeling well or showing symptoms of illness. Our goal is to stay open and keep students in school.

- ii. State testing will also begin this month and continue through the end of April. Each school will be required to have at least 95% participation and the data will be used in calculating school grades for this year.
- iii. Our Open Houses at each campus have been scheduled. We will have one each month with the first one taking place Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Although we will have an online presence, we are hosting in-person tours.
- iv. The National School Lunch Program is providing lunches to our students: ES – 72%, MS – 64% and HS – 57%.

v. **Elementary School:**

We have a new music teacher who is looking forward to working with our students. School clubs and activities will be starting up again at the end of the month. The project for the field was completed over the break and is ready for student use again. This project allows students at all three schools to benefit. The new playground is complete. New bottle fillers equipment has been installed.

vi. **High School:**

Student Council is actively planning Winter Formal for Friday, January 21, 2022. They will set up inside and outside. “Lynx for a Day” is also being planned for February 2, 2022. This event prioritizes our middle school students who will be attending our high school in the fall.

vii. **Middle School, presented by Mr. Willie Henry, Principal:**

1. Quarter 1: 100 Honor Roll students were rewarded with a trip to Chik-fil-a. We have a Positive Behavior System” in place for our students and they receive rewards for their positive actions.
2. The winter concert was a success. Included steel drums and guitars performed by the Middle School students directed by Cathy Cmiel, Music Director.
3. Student Council sponsored the Christmas dance outside under the Ramada.
4. The Book Fair this semester from Scholastic Book Fair.
5. The Spelling Bee is scheduled for January 18, 2022.
6. On January 9, 2022, we will have a talk to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to recruit for SY 22-23. Cougar for the day will be held on February 3, 2022.
7. January 25, 2022: Math and Reading testing for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
8. School library is growing. Over 750 books, 150 donated and 100 purchased. The library is outside of Mr. Henry’s office. Students are reading.

c. **Business Manager, Ms. Bennie Gemello**

- i. All bank reconciliations completed

- ii. Current with accounts payable and accounts receivables.
- iii. Our grants are ongoing.
- iv. John C. Todd II's office instructed the Academy to upload our audit to the state. We have done so and are compliant.
- v. PAYCHEX has processed our vendors who qualified to receive 1099 for 2021. All employees can download their W-2 from PAYCHEX web site after establishing their account. Otherwise the hard copy will be distributed at the end of the month, January 31, 2022.
- vi. Our approved grants are receiving reimbursements.
- vii. The population report as of 1/4/2022 which was uploaded to the state: Kinder through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade = 195/177.5 (Kinder @.5FTE), 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade = 173, 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade = 173 total 541. The population report as of 11/30/21: K-5 = 188, 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade = 180, and 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade = 174 total 542.

**d. Marketing & Recruitment Director, Ms. Holly Halstead**

- i. Open Houses from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at all schools scheduled for the first Tuesday of the Month except for January (will be the second Tuesday) 1/11, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5 and 5/3.
- ii. Advertising extensively: social media, feeder schools, childcare centers, online calendars, etc.
- iii. Mr. Henry also passed the flyer along to a middle school parent who is the director of a childcare center
- iv. Mrs. Allardice and I hosted an Open House Professional Development training at the high school and middle school to make sure the teachers were all on the same page and had any questions answered so all info will be consistent. Created info sheets for them to reference and distributed.
- v. Update the virtual tours on our website to accommodate the Open Houses.
- vi. Will be attending the Tucson Festival of Books in March.

**IX. Consent Agenda:** Expense Vouchers #6 and Payroll Vouchers #11 and #12. Dr. George Sokol moved and Mrs. Kristen Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Approval of new fiscal year contract for Ms. Bennie Gemello. She will forgo her retirement until December 31, 2023.

**X. Board Remarks:** Mrs. Kirsten Stephens reported the dictionary gifts to the Elementary School was a success. She brought in the thank you notes (drawings) from the Elementary school students to share.

**XII. Adjournment:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 5:42PM. The next meeting will be Monday, February 7, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

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**January 10, 2022**

**Bennie Gemello, Business Manager**

**Date Board Approved**