

MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS REGULAR MEETING
The Academy of Tucson
August 2, 2021

10720 E. 22nd. Street, Tucson, AZ 85748 Room 302
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- I. **Call to Order:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:20 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, HS Principal and Ms. Bennie Gemello, 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 corrected minutes for the board meeting held on July 12, 2021. Mrs. Kirsten Stephens moved and Mrs. Marolyn Pierson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- V. **Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. requested a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Ivan English moved and Mrs. Marolyn Pierson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- VI. **Call to the Public/Oral and Written Petitions: None**
- VII. **ACTION ITEMS: None**
- VIII. **Administrative Reports:**
 - a. Board President, Mr. Howard C. Stewart Jr. – No Report
 - b. Superintendent, Mrs. Wendi Allardice
 - i. First priority is Safe Return to In-Person Learning and required compliance set forth by the Federal Government and the AZ Department of Education. The Governor’s most recent guidance still indicates that schools cannot make mask choices and it is left to the parents. The CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics recommend masks indoors in all K-12 schools. All staff will be encouraged to wear mask inside.
 - ii. AOT primary focus ensuring student learning and success. Mitigation measures will change based on community spread, hospitalizations, and number of new cases. Pima County is at 1.14 infection rate and 114 new cases, less than 10 cases per 100K residents. Our schools are dedicated to

in-person student success and will encourage parents to communicate their masks decisions to their students.

- iii. Elementary School: The playground has been chosen and ordered. Installation will not take place for 12 weeks due to availability of steel. New swings are scheduled to be installed by the first day of school.
 - iv. Middle School: All positions have been filled. Currently, 6th grade enrollment continues to increase slowly. The new priority is scheduling and getting everything switched over to our new student information system.
 - v. High School: The priority is getting all students scheduled in our new system without losing current data.
 - vi. System Wide:
 - 1. The first day back for new staff members was July 28th. Our new teacher training introduced our new members to our unique school culture and what it means to be a part of The Academy Way.
 - 2. The first day back for all staff members was July 29th. The administration team conducted all mandatory training and information sessions.
 - 3. Our transition to the new Student Information System continues to take place at each school.
 - 4. The admin team is updating any policies and procedures to be in compliance with ADE Return to-In-Person Learning requirements. The new mitigation plan will be posted on our website when complete.
 - vii. Unfilled Positions: None
 - viii. Retention bonuses are scheduled for the September payroll. ESSER II funds will be utilized.
 - ix. Mrs. Allardice and Ms. Halstead attended the Tucson Kid Fest at the TCC.
 - x. Mrs. Allardice and Ms. Halstead will be working on the website changes.
- c. Business Manager, Ms. Bennie Gemello
- i. All bank reconciliations completed
 - ii. Current with accounts payable.
 - iii. Completion Reports for IDEA Basic, Title I grant has been completed SY 2021.
 - iv. The ESSER II grant application has been approved.
 - v. The 4th Quarter Bond report has been completed and sent to the Community Investment Corporation.
 - vi. We have completed audits for Selective Insurance and United Healthcare.
 - vii. Jennifer Tewhill of John C. Todd II CPA has scheduled our main audit the week of August 23rd.

viii. Our estimated enrollment numbers were uploaded to the state for Kinder through 5th Grade = 192/175.5 (Kinder @.5FTE), 6th through 8th Grade = 195, 9th through 12th Grade = 203 total 590.

IX. Consent Agenda: Expense Vouchers #1 and Payroll Vouchers #1 and #2. Mrs. Kirsten Stephens moved and Mrs. Marolyn Pierson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

X. Board Remarks: Mrs. Kirsten Stephens inquired on the Desert Springs school vacancy. How could the Academy acquire that property to accommodate the increase of student population? Mr. Howard Stewart gave the history of the Academy from its founding with Mrs. Shari Stewart. It was suggested that the board hold a retreat to discuss the options that are available and how the Board could develop ideas and plans for the future of the Academy of Tucson.

XII. Adjournment: Mr. Howard C. Stewart, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM. The next meeting will be Monday, September 13, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

August 2, 2021

Bennie Gemello, Business Manager

Date Board Approved