

APPROVED

Assurance Learning Academy

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Operated by Antelope Valley Learning Academy Inc, A California
Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation

Date and Time

Monday October 11, 2021 at 2:15 PM

Location

Conference Line: (661) 463-5403 Code: 223 795#

MEETING LOGISTICS

This meeting is held in compliance with Assembly Bill 361, which allows flexibility in Brown Act teleconferencing procedures as addressed by the Board under Agenda Item I.E. The public is encouraged to participate in the meeting telephonically by dialing the conference line listed on the posted agenda. The public may submit written comments to the Board by emailing publiccomments@assurancelearning.org. The public may also provide comments telephonically during the "Public Comment" section of the meeting agenda.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY

Please see the "Accommodations" notice below.

Directors Present

Claudette Beck (remote), Michael Molloy (remote), Michael R Adams (remote), Victoria Hancock (remote)

Directors Absent

None

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Board President Beck read aloud the notices regarding meeting logistics and accommodations.

Claudette Beck called a meeting of the board of directors of Assurance Learning Academy to order on Monday Oct 11, 2021 at 2:15 PM.

B. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

C.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Secretary Adams led the pledge of allegiance.

D. Staff Introductions

Jeff Brown, CEO
Jeri Vincent, Corporate Secretary
Michelle Berry, Area Superintendent
Taera Childers, Area Superintendent
Julie Parra, Area Superintendent
Jeff Martineau, V.P. of Charter Relations
Laura Plantenga, Principal
Victor Nardiello, Principal
Christina Graves, Principal
Rachel Taggert, Principal
Marcello Palacios, Principal
Nadi Poli, Teacher
Bill Thompson, Legal Counsel
Guita Sharifi, CFO, LLAC
Michelle Lopez, Legal Counsel, LLAC
Connie Petit, Senior Director of Special Programs, LLAC

E. Adopt Resolution Continuing Board of Directors' Authority to Hold Virtual or Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361

Board President Beck discussed Assembly Bill 361, signed by Governor Newsom on September 16, 2021, and explained that the law exempts the board from certain provisions of the Brown Act related to teleconference meetings during states of emergency, as long as the Board makes required findings as detailed in the law. Under AB 361, boards that would like to continue to meet remotely must determine by majority vote whether as a result of the state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. Board President Beck directed the board members to the resolution located in their packet and recommended the board approve the Resolution Continuing Board of Directors' Authority to Hold Virtual or Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361.

Michael Molloy made a motion to adopt Resolution Continuing Board of Directors' Authority to Hold Virtual or Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361.

Victoria Hancock seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Victoria Hancock Aye
Michael R Adams Aye
Michael Molloy Aye
Claudette Beck Aye

F. Approve Agenda for the October 11, 2021, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors

Michael R Adams made a motion to approve Agenda for the October 11, 2021, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Michael Molloy seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Claudette Beck Aye
Michael R Adams Aye
Michael Molloy Aye
Victoria Hancock Aye

G. Approve Minutes of the August 23, 2021, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors

Victoria Hancock made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 08-23-21.

Michael R Adams seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Victoria Hancock Aye
Michael R Adams Aye
Michael Molloy Aye
Claudette Beck Aye

II. Consent Agenda

A. Consent Agenda Items

Board President Beck announced the consent agenda items and asked if any member would like to discuss any of the agenda items for action separately. Hearing none, Board President Beck asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Michael Molloy made a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

Michael R Adams seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Michael R Adams Aye
Claudette Beck Aye
Victoria Hancock Aye
Michael Molloy Aye

III. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

Board President Beck read the following announcement for members of the public:

At this time, members of the public may address the Board on any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, whether or not the item is on the agenda, by dialing the teleconference line listed on the posted agenda. The time allotted per presentation will not exceed three (3) minutes, except in the case where a member of the public utilizes a translator, in which case the time allotted will not exceed six (6) minutes. In accordance with the Brown Act, no action may occur at this time, but it is the Board's prerogative to hold a brief discussion, provide information to the public, provide direction to staff, or schedule the matter for a future meeting.

Board President Beck asked if there were any members of the public who wished to offer public comment. There were no members of the public who offered public comment or submitted written comment.

IV. School Reports and Information

A. Area Superintendent Update

Michelle Berry reported on the following topics:

- The school will follow the state guidelines for staff COVID-19 vaccinations, effective October 15, 2021, verifying school employee vaccinations or weekly COVID testing requirements.
- Back to school night events were a success, attended by local community partners, students and families.
- Graduation will be held at PicWick Gardens on October 20, 2021 at 6:30pm.
- A school leadership conference was held on September 21, 2021 with several speakers who discussed: 1) strategies for working with marginalized students that focuses on promoting personal transformation and civic engagement, and 2) how to help students through a sense of increased self-worth, a sense of belonging, and a belief that they can achieve success.
- Several students are currently enrolled in English 101 classes through the school's dual enrollment program with Arizona State University.
- Tarzana Treatment Centers, an existing school partner, presented to our Student Services Support Team their new Youth Empowerment Program (YEP).
- Staff from the American Foundation for Suicide Awareness trained staff on suicide prevention awareness.
- Information on the school's upcoming winter credit recovery opportunity for students has been distributed to all local high schools serving the San Fernando Valley.

Board President Beck thanked Ms. Berry for the graduation invite and for her report.

B. WIOA Update

Michelle Berry reported on the following WIOA updates:

- Goodwill presented two of four Workforce Readiness student workshops, which covered Behavior in the Workplace and Understanding Differences in the Workplace. Over 150 students were in attendance.
- El Proyecto Del Barrio provided a virtual information session on Work Experience. Over 60 students attended the session and 15 students are enrolled in this program. Students who successfully complete the program will get up to 160 hours of paid work experience at \$15/hr.
- 279 students have participated in Workforce Development Opportunities with external WIOA partners this year.

Board President Beck praised Ms. Berry for the number of students who have participated in the WIOA program.

C.

Principal Update

Laura Plantenga updated the board on the Long Beach, North Long Beach, Rolling Hills, and Wilmington learning centers. Ms. Plantenga discussed how the centers adapted to virtual learning during the 2020-21 school year and the experiences staff learned to keep students engaged, focused, and on a path towards graduation. Ms. Plantenga then introduced Nadi Poli, who shared her experience teaching students and suicide prevention awareness month, and how two students created Public Service Announcements in conjunction with the school's counselors to provide support to students in need.

Board President Beck thanked Ms. Poli for her report.

Board Member Hancock thanked Ms. Poli for sharing so much information with them.

D. Finance Update

Guita Sharifi directed the board to the Hanmi Bank Rotating Line of Credit (RLOC) financial update and reviewed the school's credit amount including the current interest rate expiration date, the current RLOC withdrawal amount, and the RLOC covenants ratios. Ms. Sharifi then discussed the status of the June 30, 2021 annual audit report and the extended due date of January 31, 2022, and the board will be provided a presentation of the audit report during the January 2022 regular board meeting.

Board President Beck thanked Ms. Sharifi for the update.

E. School Year 2020-2021 Vendor List

Michelle Berry directed the board to the 2020-2021 school year vendor list located in their board package. Ms. Berry explained this is a list of all vendors for the 2020-2021 school year and includes a brief description of services for the board's review. Ms. Berry further explained the listing includes vendors who provide varying services including professional development, technology, health care benefits, etc.

Board President Beck thanked Ms. Berry.

F. Updated 2021-2022 Board Meeting Calendar

Board President Beck directed the board to the updated 2021-2022 regular board meeting calendar for the remainder of the school year. Jeff Martineau then updated the board of the additional regular board meeting has been scheduled for November 15, 2021 at 1:45pm.

Board President Beck thanked Mr. Martineau for the updated information.

V. Public Hearing

A. Open Public Hearing

Michael R Adams made a motion to open the public hearing.
Michael Molloy seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Claudette Beck Aye
Victoria Hancock Aye
Michael Molloy Aye
Michael R Adams Aye

Board President Beck announced the public hearing opened at 2:48 p.m.

B. The Board will hold a public hearing to solicit the recommendations and comments of members of the public regarding the Revised Budget Overview for Parents and Annual Update to the 2020-2021 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan for the 2021-22 Local Control Accountability Plan.

Michelle Berry explained to the board that following an internal audit regarding the required attachments to the 2021-22 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), we are seeking board approval on a revised Budget Overview for Parents and Annual Update for the 2020-21 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan to reflect the corrected contributing expenses as found in the board approved 2020-21 Learning Continuity Plan (LCP).

Ms. Berry reminded the board that state law required schools to adopt a LCP to ensure that students' learning progressed even amidst the pandemic. Per CDE instructions, LCP expenditures are to be included as an attachment to the 2021-22 LCAP under the title, Annual Update for the 2020-21 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan. This annual update included both the projected and actual expenditures of the LCP. Ms. Berry explained that during a review of the LCP expenditures, the school's internal audit found errors to the projected and actual expenditures inputted on the spreadsheet used to complete the Budget Overview for Parents (BOP). Ms. Berry explained the school has established a process to ensure all data input is accurate and future errors will be eliminated. The chart titled, Updated on Increased or Improved Services for High Needs Students in 2020-21, includes the corrected contributing budgeted expenditures and actual expenditures for high needs students in the LCP.

Ms. Berry then requested recommendations and comments from members of the public and the board

C. Close Public Hearing

Hearing no comments from the public, Board President Beck asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Michael Molloy made a motion to close the public hearing.

Victoria Hancock seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Michael Molloy Aye
Claudette Beck Aye
Michael R Adams Aye
Victoria Hancock Aye

Board President Beck announced the public hearing closed at 2:52 p.m.

VI. Action Items

A.

The Board will be asked to approve the Revised Budget Overview for Parents and Annual Update to the 2020-2021 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan for the 2021-22 Local Control Accountability Plan.

Ms. Berry reviewed the revised Budget Overview for Parents and update to the 2020-2021 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan for the 2021-2022 Local Control Accountability Plan and then recommended the board approve the revised documents, which were shared during the public hearing.

Michael R Adams made a motion to approve the Revised Budget Overview for Parents and Annual Update to the 2020-2021 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan for the 2021-22 Local Control Accountability Plan.

Victoria Hancock seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Victoria Hancock Aye

Michael Molloy Aye

Claudette Beck Aye

Michael R Adams Aye

VII. Closed Session

A. Adjourn open public Board meeting to go into closed session

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - Confidential Student Expulsion Case # 2021-01

AND

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Gov. Code section 54957(b)(1).) Title: Area Superintendent

Michael Molloy made a motion to adjourn open public Board meeting to go into closed session.

Michael R Adams seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Victoria Hancock Aye

Michael Molloy Aye

Claudette Beck Aye

Michael R Adams Aye

B. Adjourn closed session and reconvene to open Board meeting

Board President Beck reported that the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the closed session and resume the public board meeting.

Michael R Adams made a motion to adjourn closed session and reconvene to open Board meeting.

Victoria Hancock seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Michael R Adams Aye

Victoria Hancock Aye

Roll Call

Claudette Beck Aye
Michael Molloy Aye

C. Report of action taken or recommendations made in closed session, if any

Board President Beck reported the board took action for closed session item CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - Confidential Student Expulsion Case # 2021-01, by a motion by Board Member Molloy and a second by Board Secretary Adams the board unanimously voted to approve the expulsion.

Board President Beck stated no action was taken in closed session for the PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Gov. Code section 54957(b)(1).) Title: Area Superintendent.

VIII. Additional Corporate Officers and Board Members' Observations and Comments.

A. Observations and Comments

Jeff Brown congratulated the Area Superintendents on their virtual success. He also praised Ms. Poli for all of her hard work. Mr. Brown thanked the board for their oversight and assistance.

Jeri Vincent agreed with Mr. Brown and thanked Ms. Plantenga for the exciting programs. She also thanked Ms. Berry and the board for their constant support.

Board President Beck praised everyone for their great reports. She expressed her appreciation to Ms. Poli.

IX. Closing Items

A. Next Board Meeting Date: December 1, 2021, 2:30pm

Board President Beck reminded the board the next board meeting is November 15, 2021.

B. Adjourn Meeting

Michael Molloy made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Victoria Hancock seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Claudette Beck Aye
Michael Molloy Aye
Michael R Adams Aye
Victoria Hancock Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael R Adams

Accommodations. All meetings of the Board of Directors are held in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations, or translation services, in order to enable all individuals to participate in the Charter School's open and public meetings shall be made by contacting Soliman Villapando at (661) 272-1225 at least twenty four (24) hours before the scheduled meeting.

Non-Discrimination. The Charter School prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on the actual or perceived characteristics of disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, national origin, ancestry, race or ethnicity, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, immigration status, potential or actual parental, family or marital status, age, or association with an individual who has any of the aforementioned characteristics, or any other basis protected by federal, state or local law.

Public Documents. To request documents provided to a majority of the governing board regarding an open session item on this agenda, please send an email request to publiccomments@assurancelearning.org.