



ALLEGIANCE STEAM ACADEMY

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

February 22 , 2021

Minutes

I. PRELIMINARY

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair at 7:01pm

B. Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Samantha Odo, Board Chair	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Jason Liso, Treasurer	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Marcilyn Jones, Secretary	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Troy Stevens, Member	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Claudia Reynolds, Member	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

C. Public Comments, Items not on the agenda

Diana Urbina: Requested to speak to urge the board to follow the recommendation to reopen on March 8. She has nothing but respect for the administration team and encourages the board to trust them to know what is best for students to open on March 8.

Deanna Campagna: Excited to see her students, but also has anxiety over what comes next. She has packed up her classroom to change the way a kindergarten room looks like. She hears the desire to have kids back in the classroom even if it's messy, but Allegiance teachers don't do things messy. They want things right for their students. Urges the board to give us time to figure out this new model.

Synthia Rangel: Excited about the idea to return, but is overwhelmed by the thought of returning. Asks for time to get ready to take for a massive undertaking of a transition to a

new model. Wants the board to take into account the time it will take to get ready for this transition considering we are still writing report cards for the end of the trimester.

Vanessa Okamoto: Encourages us to take the proper time to be able to make this transition. Encourages the board to remember the uniqueness of the ASA hybrid model and how we are taking on the role of hybrid teachers and distance learning. States that if reopening was based on emotion, she would have encouraged us to open yesterday, but she understands that we need time to implement this change.

D. Approval of agenda for Special Board Meeting on February 22, 2021

Motion (Jason Liso), second (Marcilyn Jones), motion carried by a vote 5-0 to approve the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting on February 22, 2021.

II. OPEN SESSION

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Items Scheduled for Discussion / Action

1. In-Person School Reopening Start Date for Grades TK-6

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- *Dr. Cognetta wanted to thank the board members for their services to our school and appreciate their commitment that the board is dedicated to doing what is best for our students.*
- *Recognizes that our hybrid model is demanding on teachers, but thought it was the best fit for our community.*
- *We are relying on new technology and teachers need to be trained for it.*
- *There have been many revisions to what health and safety requirements look like and we will need time to train staff how to follow these and guide students through this process.*
- *The school's goal once we open is to stay open.*
- *March 8 was chosen to try and meet the needs and demands of our model. ASA is ambitious in it's reopening timeline and many surrounding schools and districts have taken much more time to turn around to opening on average around a month. Sam Odo asked to have ASA's reopening explained how it is different from other models. Dr. Cognetta explained that ASA teachers are responsible for hybrid and home-based learning students.*

Troy Stevens asked if the curriculum is different. Dr. Cognetta explained that differentiation takes place in every classroom. We are trying to ensure that all students have their needs met. He explained that assessing students virtually is different than assessing a student right in front of teachers.

Jason Liso asked if parents are able to change their mind if they want to switch between hybrid and home based. Dr. Cognetta said that the standard practice will not be to allow

families to switch from home based to hybrid, but we will evaluate on a case by case basis.

Marcy Jones asked if they could see a timeline plan so that the board could wrap their heads around what is happening in this transition. She also questioned if there were some detailed plans. Dr. Cognetta explained that some things are still being worked out. First round of testing will be March 22 and 23 for staff and students. There has been plenty of work done, but some things are time bound and couldn't be done until reopening was imminent. Mrs. Lohoff shared that rosters were created, classrooms need to be ready so a model was set for teachers to follow, ELPAC and CAASPP testing planning, Optiva has been working to make sure all the technology in the classrooms and workrooms are working, Optiva requested 2 days to get the technology ready, discussions of staggering start times, but nothing has been decided. They also need time to communicate to families.

Claudia Reynolds shared that she was able to go to her classroom a month ago and she felt that sense of being overwhelmed. She is pleased to hear the plans and the brainstorming and from a teacher's perspective she understands that teachers need the time. She wants to say whatever teachers need, we should listen to them.

Troy Stevens wants to be prepared as well. He thinks that March 8 is a great date, but thinks the best way to prepare for something is to put it into practice. He wants to ensure that students are also prepared and know what to expect. We are excited to get back to school and he would like to see students have a practice day before March 8 as well.

Jason Liso wholeheartedly agrees with Troy and would like to see something like Troy's proposal.

Marcy Jones shares that if a trial needs to happen, then we should do it after March 8. Teachers are asking for the time and we should give it to them. They have proposed the time and it is a reasonable timeline. She thinks we should give the 2 weeks.

Sam Odo wanted to clarify what the non-student days would be used for and when teachers would receive training. Dr. Cognetta shared that it would be a lot for staff to prepare to have students on campus before March 8. While he understands the merits of a trial session, he thinks it is a lot to ask of staff to prepare for that while also preparing for hybrid.

Jason Liso asked what if it was a tech disaster on March 8. Dr. Cognetta acknowledges that it could be possible but doesn't feel that students at home would lose instruction. The screen may be smaller but instruction will happen. When he looks at the cost benefit of it, he does not think a dry run day is worth it.

Claudia Reynolds shared that simply teachers just need the time. The kids have dealt with so many things, but they will be fine too. She thinks things will work out the way it is supposed to, but would much rather give teachers the time to let them prepare. Dr.

Cognetta shared that teachers spend the first part of a school year teaching routines. This year will be no different except being two trimesters in. Students will be taught routine and expectations will be established.

Troy asks what the timeline will be to communicate with parents the specifics. Dr. Cognetta expressed that he knows we need to get the information out soon and often. He shared that parents will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

Troy shared that he has been in conversations with Dr. Cognetta and had come into this meeting that March 3 was an option that the school could open and be ready. He complimented the staff and how quickly they transitioned to distance learning and even how we initially got ready when we first opened. Now that he has reflected and feels he can step back and can trust the people in charge to care for the students. He realizes that he has to put the trust into the people that got this school going and states the staff has not failed him yet. Understands that we need to do this the right way.

Sam Odo states that the staff are the experts and if they are asking for the 2 weeks, then that is what we need to give.

Motion to direct the CEO for an In-Person School Reopening Start Date for Grades TK-6 of March 8, 2021. Motion (Samantha Odo) Second (Jason Liso). Motion passes 5-0.

2. Resolution 2020/2021:2 Reopening for In-Person Learning Grades 7 and 8

Authorizes grades 7 and 8 to reopen once the county and state guidelines determine they are eligible. The resolution allows the CEO to reopen the school without a special board meeting. Motion to approve and adopt Resolution 2020/2021:2 Reopening for In-Person Learning Grades 7 and 8. Motion (Troy Stevens) Second (Claudia Reynolds) . Motion passes 5-0.

3. Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar

Minimum days proposed for this week and professional development next week. April 6 was scheduled for a non-student day, but has been moved to March 3 and March 4-5 will be non-student days as well taking us from 177 instructional days to 175 days. Motion to approve and adopt the 2020-2021 Revised School Calendar. Motion (Marcilyn Jones) Second (Samantha Odo). Motion passes by a vote of 5-0.

C. Communications

1. Comments from the Board of Directors

Claudia Reynolds: Very happy to give teachers the time that they need. Understands that teachers are working through their days off and appreciates that we are able to put each other's shoes. Knows that this is a big task, but we are all in it together. We should keep an open mind and know this is a learning time for all of us.

Troy Stevens: Commented that to get to this day is almost a year from when it started. Glad that kids are going to get back on campus to see their friends. Stressed that it is so important that parents do the daily health screening. It would be very detrimental to the school. Appreciates everyone for their advice. Looking forward to seeing the kids on campus.

Marcy Jones: Wants to talk to the staff and let them know that the board completely supports them and know the staff jumps in and makes it happen. Encourages the staff to give themselves some grace and know when the moment comes that we are overwhelmed that they believe in us. Kids are resilient and the kids are ready for this. It's been a long time coming and we are all excited.

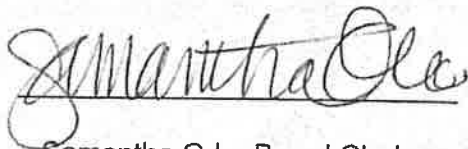
Jason Liso thinks that it is great that they could get to the point to open the school. Appreciates everyone's perspective. Realizes that the staff is capable of doing great things. Wants staff to remember that when the school closed down last year, we didn't skip a beat. It appeared seamless. Wants staff to know to cut themselves some slack. Reopening may not be perfect and that is ok. He also thanked the parents and kids for saying the course.

Sam Odo: Fellow board member captured her thoughts. She wants the staff to know that she trusts them and the decisions they are making for the kids and knows the staff has the best interests of the students at heart. Appreciates what is taking place and she is excited for March 8.

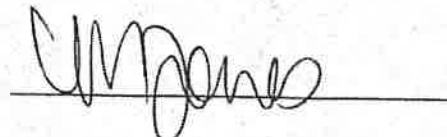
Sebastian shared that we pride ourselves on being a diverse community. There are a lot of different opinions during the past year. What happened to our school was out of our control. It is time to take our school back. He hopes that everyone takes what happened tonight and listens and leads with empathy. Dr. Cognetta challenges everyone; parents, students, and staff, to come back with empathy.

F. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the February 22, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors at 8:52pm. Motion (Jason Liso), Second (Troy Stevens), Motion carries by a vote of 5-0.



Samantha Odo, Board Chair



Marcilyn Jones, Board Secretary