

**American Renaissance School
Board of Directors Meeting
July 20, 2020**

Mission:

To ensure a standard of academic excellence by providing a nurturing environment that allows each child to reach their fullest potential as students and citizens.

Board Members Present: Tracy Sain, Danny Carpenter, Caity Gordon, Frank DiGangi, Katherine Smith, Teresa Stewart, Jonathan Bell, Raphael Weeks

Board Members Not Present:

Administrative Staff Present: Jim Duffey, Andrea Leluika, Jessica Duncan, Danielle Cusick, Tai McMiller

Administrative Staff Not Present:

Call to Order - 9:05

Tracy Sain

Approval of Agenda

Tracy Sain

Motion to approve by Frank. Danny seconded.

Approval of Minutes

Tracy Sain

Danny moved to approve. Katherine seconded.

New Board Member Introductions

Tracy Sain

- Teresa Stewart - Worked with ISS for years. Welcome!

Public Comments

- Caroline Wright: Can you explain a little about Plan B?
 - Since this relates to reopening plan, we'll circle back to public comment

Committee Reports

- Personnel

Frank DiGangi

- *Closed session*

- Finance

Frank DiGangi

- Review Financials- *action item*

- June 2020 - Deficit of just under \$100k, which is normal
- Overall YTD surplus over \$115k
- State and local funds revenue came in under budget
- Programs
 - Athletics short about \$5k
 - \$85k revenue due to certain programs being curtailed before end of year

- Fundraising took a hit due to cancellation of events
 - Other areas under expenses came in far under budget
 - Bank account is where it normally is in July
 - **Katherine moved to approve. Danny seconded.**
 - Present FY21 Budget- revenue update Jim Duffey
 - Passed in the June meeting.
 - Original budget was very conservative based on certain cuts we were anticipating from the state.
 - The numbers came back less conservative than expected, so adjustments were made to accommodate those changes.
 - Budget Letter for the State
 - Waiting on final revision from Jonathan.
 - Based on the new numbers from the state, we may want to revise some wording.
 - *Review* of ACCESS Grant Budget Mods Jim Duffey
 - Board will do final approval in July. Budget meetings in July. Funds should be available in August. It is a reimbursement grant, but no plans to spend money until it is available.
 - Built a program around \$1.25k, then funded around \$750k.
 - Turned in a revised budget for that change, with some adjustments including professional development, technology, and furniture.
 - Will be reviewed by the board in the upcoming weeks.
 - Ancillary Benefits Jim Duffey
 - Aflac and Colonial submitted proposals. Some administrative costs were mitigated from both proposals.
 - Tracy: Table this and circle back in the next quarter.
- Fundraising
- Facilities Tracy Sain
 - *Closed session*
- Governance
 - Weighted Lottery policy/amendment- *action item* Jim Duffey
 - Needs to be submitted and approved by the charter school advisory board.
 - This change allows ARS to give a weighted lottery entry for economically disadvantaged students. This was a key piece in applying for the ACCESS grant.
 - This is not a preferred or reserved spot. It is a weight of about 1.2 compared to 1.0, with a select number of weighted spots per classroom.
 - **Frank moved to approve. Danny seconded the motion. Motion approved.**
 - Remote Instruction Plan- *action item*
 - An approved process in the policy for how ARS will handle remote instruction.
 - This may be utilized:
 - By the school in any phase
 - By families who choose to remote learn, regardless of the phase (would need to commit on a quarterly basis)
 - On a snow day

- Some teachers may teach remotely from their classrooms (optional).
 - Some EC services may be taught in person, at the discretion of the EC Director.
 - All in-person instruction will need prior approval by the Principal and Executive Director.
 - Process:
 - K8 will use Google Classroom with a weekly assignment calendar/playlist.
 - Remote Learning Center will provide instructional videos and other resources.
 - Emphasis on continuity of schedule.
 - Student Engagement / Management
 - Documentation of communication if there's a no show
 -
- Questions from the Board
 - Tracy: With Plan C, how do we onboard students and parents for the remote learning process (in terms of technology and the process overall)?
 - Jim: $\frac{1}{3}$ of students will be onboarded at a time over the course of three days via orientation days. Open House virtual sessions will be held in the evening for parents. Teachers will train individuals and parent groups on the platform for submitting assignments, etc. Will offer other resources and training tools on the Learning Resource Center.
 - Tracy: Accountability - what tools are in place to ensure that students are going to be present and engaged? What tools will be used to identify which students are not engaged/present or struggling?
 - Jim: Similar tools and research based progress monitoring that are used in person. Follow the flow chart in the presentation to document each step of the way to determine when conferences are needed. Discretion of instructors to bring students and parents in to discuss when there are issues (flexibility under the fact that Plan B is an option).
 - Frank: Everyone has done a great job getting this plan together.
 - Teresa: With the knowledge that this is the best option, where does time come in the evening if parents both work and need to cover a day's worth of instruction with a student?
 - Jim: Looking at this on a quarterly basis. Do the best to structure a day in a safe working space for the student as close to 8am-2:30pm as possible.
 - Tracy: Repository for videos for parents will allow parents to access content from the lessons to help their children.
- Remote Instruction Plan- *action item*
- Return to School Plan- *action item*
- **Motion to adopt Plan C by Frank. Seconded by Katherine. Approved.**
- Public Questions
 - What resources are available for students who have limited access to technology?
 - After school care?
 - Before and after school care is not a consideration under Plan C. Will take a look at this again when approaching Plan B in the future. Other

community organizations have available programs that can assist parents with care. Rec Center and YMCA might be conducting these programs. BGC is not. ARS will work on transportation to these facilities to help families in need.

- Calendar Changes
 - The new calendar will be made available on the ARS website this week.
- Has DPI said whether this remote learning will be graded?
 - Yes, this will be a graded period. There will be training with staff on giving effective critical feedback to parents and students.
- Is the 8am-2:30pm schedule going to be tracked/monitored? EC?
 - Yes, a significant portion of that time period will be live instruction. Attendance will be taken at the first morning session at 8am. Assignment submission will also be a form of attendance. For EC, this will depend on the individual IEP's.
- When will the fees for school uniforms be due? Is there any plan for parents under financial hardship or out of work?
 - ARS will make sure students have all the resources they need, taking hardship into account. RAP will handle questions about uniforms.

- ***Motion to enter Closed Session by Danny. Frank Seconded.***

Closing

Tracy Sain

Closed Session- contract negotiations and personnel matters

- Frank moved to reenter open session. Danny seconded.
- ***Frank moved to unfreeze salaries, approve 2019/2020 pay scale with step increases, as well as administrator merit increases as discussed in closed session. Katherine seconded. Approved.***
- Board retreat will be scheduled for next month.
- ***Katherine moved to adjourn the meeting. Teresa seconded.***