

American Leadership Academy



Board of Trustees Public Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2007

7:30 p.m.

Administration Building

Call to Order: Chairman, Dr. Hogenson called meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Spiritual Thought: Chairman, Dr. Hogenson

Roll Call: Chairman, Dr. Hogenson, Dr. Warren Peterson, Ann Marie Mair, Jan Searle, Mike Hess, Vickie Peterson, Shelina Way and Director Rob Muhlestein, Kalin Hall
Excused: Krystin Morley
General Public: roll attached to minutes.

Adoption of minutes: Minutes of the February 1, 2007 meeting were adopted by unanimous vote of all Board members present (Dr. Hogenson, Dr. Peterson, Ann Marie Mair, Vickie Peterson, Shelina Way, Mike Hess, and Jan Searle).

Items of Business:

1. Spanish Fork /ALA Building Agreement.

Allen Davis (Board Attorney) presented a contract to the Board of Trustees concerning shared building and facility use between Spanish Fork and American Leadership Academy. Liability was addressed; Mr. Davis explained that each would be responsible for their own liability with each event. If damage occurs we must make notification to the one that causes the damage to pay for the damage. There will be a committee set up to oversee the use of the buildings and facilities. There will be three members from ALA and three members from the city of Spanish Fork. ALA committee members will be Mr. Rob Muhlestein, Dr. Eric Hogenson, and Mr. Allen Davis. Motion needed to give authority for Chairman, Dr. Hogenson and Director Rob Muhlestein to sign the agreement. (Dr. Warren Peterson made the motion to give the authority to Dr. Hogenson and Mr. Muhlestein and Mike Hess seconded). A vote was taken by the Board and the motion passed unanimously. Those voting Dr. Hogenson, Mike Hess, Dr. Peterson, Ann Marie Mair, Vickie Peterson, Jan Searle, Shelina Way.

2. Fundraising:

Ann Marie Mair presented a program called I gifts. This would be a fundraiser for the entire school. Companies online would give a certain a percentage of purchased items to the school, in some cases up to 26%. The sign up is easy, you may go to the ALA website Board of Trustees tab and click the tab for I gifts and follow the instructions. It is safe and done in the same manner as all online purchases. When money comes in it will be decided in what area it will be used. Ann Marie has the information of stores that are participating. This is a great way to earn money for the school. This is only good for online purchases.

3. Truancy Policy:

This policy is in accordance with Utah State Law. Utah State Law requires students from the age of six to the age of eighteen to attend school. Exception to this would be a filed exemption for home instruction, or religious instruction. Truancy is defined as absence without valid excuse. An absence means failure of a school age minor assigned to a class or class period to attend the entire class or class period. Valid excuse is defined in the ALA attendance policy in the student handbook. Copy of policy is attached to the minutes. Policy adopted by unanimous vote of the Board. (Those voting in favor are Chairman, Dr. Hogenson, Dr. Warren Peterson, Mike Hess, Shelina Way, Vickie Peterson, Jan Searle and Ann Mair Mair). Public comment was taken.

Mrs. Ward (parent) wanted clarification as to calling in for her student when absent from school. The Board: A parent must excuse their child/children no later than three days after the child is absent.

Dr. Hogenson related his personal experience with being called by the school for his children being absent. He had received calls when he had taken his children on a family trip. The school calls homes of students who are absent.

Dr. Peterson related his experience of receiving calls from the school calling concerning his child who was involved with a school sponsored activity. Mr. Hall explained that the coach should have notified the attendance department in behalf of his son.

Paul Butterfield (parent) expressed he is grateful that the school notifies him.

Vickie Peterson said the school will make every effort to work with the parents and students to resolve attendance problems before it gets to the extreme. If unable to resolve the student must be turned over to the Juvenile Court for resolve.

4. Public Meeting Policy

American Leadership Board of Trustees convenes for a Public meeting at least once a month. Utah State Law requires all open public meetings to be recorded along with written minutes. The records of open public meetings are to be available to the public upon request. Therefore, the minutes of the open public meeting must be ready to be filed for review in a timely manner. The records must be in an accessible place for convenient review. This policy is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Muhlestein expressed the need to place in the policy the address and exact location of the meeting.

Vickie Peterson agreed to make this addition.

The policy was adopted with the addition, by unanimous vote of the Board. (Those voting in favor were, Chairman Dr. Hogenson, Vickie Peterson, Mike Hess, Ann Marie Mair, Jan Searle, Shelina Way and Dr. Warren Peterson.)

Public Comment:

Pat Parkinson (parent): Stated that it was good to have the address, because someone could decide to have it in their home, then no one would know where the meeting would be held.

5. Parent Council Report:

Vickie Peterson, PC President, reports of upcoming important events for the Parent Council. The PC will be having a special By-Laws meeting on March 19, at 9:00a.m. in the teacher's lounge, this is a time for parents to present to the executive board their proposed revisions. The PC Executive Board will review the proposals to see if they are in line with the Charter and the Mission and Vision of the school. Then the approved proposals will be taken to the April 5, PC General Meeting for a vote of the parents in favor or opposition of all approved proposals.

April 5, will be the PC Budget and Bylaws voting meeting. This meeting is important for parents to attend as well as the May meeting. The PC would like to present to the parents candidates who are running for the position of Pres-Elect and the Two Year Term Board of Trustee member. We are encouraging parents who want to run for these positions to sign up immediately.

Dr. Warren Peterson, expressed concerns of By-Law changes in order to have an election for a Two Year Term Board member. Vickie Peterson said that she had consulted with Allen Davis (Board Attorney) and Chairman, Dr. Hogenson, and the By-laws seem to allow for this election.

The PC will be sending out a letter to parents informing them of these important events, as well as a survey to ask parents their opinion of the school and areas they feel ALA can improve.

May 5, the PC will have the Election Meeting for open positions.

6. Dr. Warren Peterson presented to the Board, a Letterman Jacket. The cost would be about \$199. This would be after the student earned their Letter. He would like to put a display case in the High School to display the jackets. People who visit the school would be able to see the jackets along with an explanation of how students earn the Letterman Jacket. Each student who earns their Letter will be given a pin to describe what area they earned the Letter; the areas are Band, Choir, and Athletics. Student Government.

Public Comment:

Would Jackets be able to be worn in the school with out violating the dress code?
Jan Searle said yes, it would be under school issued jackets; therefore, it would not violate the dress code.

Public Comments/Questions:

Shelina Way asked “How many Buses do we have”?

Mr. Muhlestein answered:

The school has four buses, two that we can drive. The other two are old and cannot pass emission’s test. We also are need of someone to drive the bus.

Ms. Anderson: What happen to the Mill Road access?

Chairman Eric Hogenson said this will not happen, it cost about \$100,000 to build the road and the school would be better off using that money in education.

Ms Anderson asked what happen to the Fire Marshall’s issue with the road not being open a fire hazard. The Board answered, that was given up. We would still have had to pay for the road.

Mr. Muhlestein said that with the new subdivision being completed, maybe, they will help with the access road.

Ms. Anderson inquired if we could have a bike rack for students who ride their bikes? Mr. Muhlestein said that would be a good fundraiser. Not many students ride their bikes to school. However, if they did, we would need a bike rack. Ms. Anderson said that at present time students have to take their bikes into the classroom or inside of the building.

Dr. Hogenson would like to see a walking path for students; this would be for their safety.

Ann Marie Mair said if students ride their bikes she would like some kind of bike test. This would also be for the student’s safety.

She is not sure that students understand the bike rules.

A parent brought up the concern that Mrs. Harrison has left her position as Elementary Director and would this change the vision and mission of the school. Would new directors have the same goal and vision as she did? Mr. Mulhstein assured her the mission and vision would be the same. The goal is that no matter who leaves the next to take their place would also have this in mind. All would be on board with the mission and vision including parents. We have department heads as well as grade heads that understand the mission and vision, these people will train new ones that come through.

Dr. Peterson said Charter schools start up usually changes directors six month to a year. They loose about 1/3 of their teachers after the first year. Teachers are on board with the vision. Charter schools see a turnover the 3rd, 4th and 5th years. The Board and Directors guarantee through meetings to ensure the vision.

Pat Parkinson wanted to be reminded of the vision.

Dr. Hogenson, said the vision is five fold, what is the best education for the kids, values, not only passing exams but learning right and wrong. The students will become well rounded. The students will become good leaders and prepare for college; students will have a good atmosphere for learning.

Kalin Hall said we need to look beyond to achieve success. Learn the difference of right and wrong, having the right to reason, going the extra mile. Hindering bad choices, from what parents have done, or to yielding to peer pressure. They are sometimes products of the environment. We need to work together to stop this and we can if we all work together to push it.

Beth Pearson, “How are we training teachers in Core Knowledge”?

She remembered at a parent council meeting they were considering a fundraiser to send teachers to be trained in Core Knowledge. She suggests that this should not be a fundraiser, but should be in the school budget.

Jan Searle said the school has paid \$15,000 to have the Core Knowledge people come to train our teachers. After the training we should be able to train other teachers. Jan agrees this should be in the school budget. A problem is after training some teachers they leave the school.

Ms. Anderson wanted to know if we would consider a family pass for school events.

Mr. Mulhstein said yes we would. He asked Ms. Anderson a suggestion of cost, she said \$36. This would only be for immediate family members.

Mr. Mulhstein said we may need a policy to accommodate.

Jan Searle, we do need support for the school events.

Another suggestion of \$65 for families pass that would be for all school events, if we do so, we need to advertise so that we can sell the pass to families.

Paul Butterfield would like to announce the advertising of Aladdin. Programs cost about \$1000 to \$2000 to print up. We need those within the school who have a business and would like to buy advertising in the program. Then maybe parents could place a message for their child who is in the play. He will be looking for sponsors. Mike Hess, suggested Central Bank.

Beth Pearson Are buses used just for sporting events? Would we be able to pay a fee to transport students to a designated spot for parents to pick them up?

Mr. Mulhstein, we offered this last year, not many needed the service. We could offer it again. We do not get transportation funds to be able to do this. We will try to offer this next fall.

Dr. Peterson this may conflict with the athletic schedule.

Chairman, Dr.Hogenson, with a motion closed the meeting at 8:55. Stating the next general meeting will be April 5.

Minutes submitted by Vickie Peterson