



Minutes for ALA Board of Trustees General Public Meeting: November 2, 2006

Call to Order: 7:35pm - Eric Hogenson - Chairman

Inspirational thought: Eric Hogenson

Members Present: Eric Hogenson – Chairman
Shelina Way – Vice-Chair
Mike Hess – Treasurer
Krystin Morley – Secretary
Vickie Peterson – Parent Council President
Warren Peterson – Senior Elected member
Ann-Marie Mair – Junior Elected member

Excused from Meeting: Jan Searle

Additional persons present: Allen Davis – School Counsel

Parents in attendance: Please see the attached roll.

Items of Business:

1. Bond Issuance and School building purchase.
 - a. Fred Benson – Audit completed. Just over 25 million tax-exempt bonds priced at an average cost of 5.62% were purchased, which is much better than the 6.25% expected. Eight bond investors are involved from all over the country. Additional funds will be available for the football field. Pre-closing and document signing occurs Tuesday November 6, 2006 and closing and funding occurs Wednesday November 7, 2006. Savings for the school over the 30-year period are in the region of \$4.5 million. Rob Muhlestein asked the Board and those parents present to acknowledge the hard work that Mr. Benson has put in to get the school to this point. Those present acknowledged Mr. Benson accordingly. A proposal was suggested by Mr. Hogenson to acknowledge the work that Mr. Benson has done and to let him know that the Board are grateful. Mr. Peterson seconded this. There was no discussion and the proposal carried with a unanimous vote.
 - b. Allen Davis -To accomplish the purchase of the buildings and close the deal on Tuesday, the Board needs to authorize a member or members to sign the documents. Mr. Davis prepared a document for the Board to review, vote on and sign if acceptable allowing the Chief Administrative Officer and/or Treasurer to sign the document. A motion was made by Vickie Peterson to adopt the resolution and Shelina Way seconded. Mike Hess had a question relating to fixtures becoming the property of the investors on foreclosure. Mr. Davis explained that if for any reason American Leadership Academy Inc. cannot make payment on the loan, not only the property but the fixtures and fittings within the building also become investor property. The motion was voted upon and carried with a unanimous vote. Mr. Davis requested the Board sign the official document he held, so that he had signatures on the correct document. There are many other documents that Mr. Hogenson and/or Mr. Hess will be required to sign, one of which is a bond purchase agreement that Mr. Hogenson also signed at the meeting.
 - c. Eric Hogenson talked about the involvement of the Way and Morley families in the building of the facilities and how generous they have been in allowing us to purchase the buildings. Mr. Peterson made a proposal and a motion that the Board send a formal thank you to the Morley and Way families, for and on behalf of American Leadership Academy Inc., for their generosity and hard work and for all they have done for the school. Mr. Hess requested these minutes show that both Way and Morley families did not vote on the previous item of business, as it would have been a conflict of interest. Mr. Hogenson seconded the motion and it was carried with a unanimous vote.
2. Parent Council business – Vickie Peterson, Parent Council President brought items of concern from the Parent Council meeting.
 - a. Parking out front of the buildings of huge unattended vehicles is a safety issue that needs to be addressed, as there have been several instances of children running out from behind them, in front of other drivers. Suggestions were made for painting the curb red or adding one minute or no parking signs. Mrs. Peterson suggested a policy be adopted for this. Mrs. Peterson suggested that the transportation committee and the emergency preparedness committees need to work together to rectify this problem and the transportation committee reports to Mr. Muhlestein. Mr. Muhlestein was asked who paints the curbs and responded that he

and Mr. Hall would be the ones painting, however this would make a good Eagle Project. Mr. Muhlestein agreed that he would have the curb painted the appropriate color. Mr. Hogenson then asked about enforcement and suggested a tow-truck be utilized occasionally to make people aware that it is a policy that must be adhered to. Mr. Muhlestein will find out the laws regarding fire lanes and so forth and will report back at the next meeting.

- b. It was asked if a survey could be sent out asking whether parents would like school to start and finish earlier and stagger the start and finish times to alleviate the traffic. Mrs. Morley stated one of the reasons for not doing this in the first place was that many parents were bringing their children for all three levels at the same time. It would be pointless bringing one child at one time and then having to return a few minutes later for the other children. Mr. Davis pointed out that several parents in the Parent Council General Public meeting prior to the Board meeting commented to this effect. Mrs. Morley stated that the idea set up at the beginning, in the original charter, was to allow children to have breakfast at home, have some family time, to have an unrushed start and stay at school a little longer. Mrs. Peterson voiced another issue that some children do not get home until 4pm to 4:30pm when they have dinner and then bed shortly after and there is no family time because of it. Mr. Hogenson suggested posting the survey on the website and asked if it should go onto the Parent Council section. Mrs. Peterson was given the permission to place a survey online as part of her regular duties.
 - c. Parents want accountability for donations. Mrs. Peterson suggested a policy to accomplish this. Mr. Hogenson agreed that donations need to be acknowledged and suggested that accountability should be on the website. Mr. Davis, pointed out that in the charter it states that all fundraising and reporting is handled by the Parent Council and therefore Mrs. Peterson should assume that she has the approval of the Board to handle this accordingly. Mr. Hess suggested to Mr. Muhlestein that he give Mrs. Peterson a copy of all income and expenditure reports related to donations to allow her to answer the question of where the donations go. Mr. Muhlestein agreed to give a condensed report to the Parent Council, which can then be uploaded to the website to allow parents to view where their money has gone.
3. Directors' time.

Mr. Muhlestein, School Managing Director. Parents need to start going to the website for answers to their questions and for information. The newsletter is now available online and the IT department is working on a subscription service to the newsletter. Mr. Muhlestein's Director's message is given on the website. Academics are being pushed much more and students will be failed for refusing to work in their classes. Unexcused absences are a problem and parents are now being called when students are absent. It appears many parents forget about this requirement. Three unexcused absences will result in expulsion. Lunch size is a problem for some kids, but this is down to the state requirements. Volunteers are required for lunch times, as time is an issue for many children. Basketball coaches have been hired for 7th and 8th grade classes for practice immediately after school in the Elementary School gym. Basketball starts with try-outs beginning Monday November 6, 2006 for the High School children and open gym format for everyone in the lower levels straight after school. Wrestling also starts Monday.
 4. Warren Peterson suggested an open forum for anyone who cannot stay until after the closed Board session. Mr. Hogenson agreed and opened the floor for comments and questions.
 - a. Mr. Hess suggested that the Board issue a check for the setup of a school certificate of deposit at the bank to be used to secure a credit card to avoid using private and personal cards for purchases. Mr. Muhlestein suggested that a limit of \$100K at the beginning of school is required for purchasing of books and equipment but thereafter a limit of about \$20K would be adequate. Mr. Hess proposed issuing a check for \$22K for a certificate of deposit for the credit card to be held with Central Bank. Mr. Peterson made a point of order that Mr. Hess should recuse himself from the decision, as there is a conflict of interest with him working for Central Bank. Mr. Muhlestein pointed out that the school must obtain three bids from different companies before taking any action.
 - b. Mrs. Pat Parkinson commented on the cost of jackets from the school store being too high. Mrs. Ann-Marie Mair explained that the Board are looking for cheaper alternatives to the currently offered jackets and have found one for the smaller children. Quality is the issue on the big jackets, as thickness and warmth are of concern to the children who need them and therefore it is more difficult to find a cheaper alternative that is as good quality. Sweaters can still be worn in class in school approved solid colors and any jacket/coat can be worn to the front door of the school, it is just what can be worn inside the classroom that is the issue. Students are supposed to walk their outside coats and jackets to their lockers, but are not doing so. Mr. Hall has a pile of jackets in his office that have been confiscated. Mrs. April Sherrod pointed out that the website states that school approved jackets will be issued to students, but the school has not done this. Mrs. Morley advised that this was the original intention but that jacket costs were so much higher than expected and there are not enough jackets for everyone anyway, the school could not issue a jacket to all students. Mr. Muhlestein asked the Board to clarify what they wanted him to do regarding this, as the school has some school jackets in now. He asked if the administration should be allowing all jackets in school colors or if they should be enforcing the school jackets only policy. Mrs. Morley said that they could allow school approved solid colors. Mr. Hogenson stated for the record that, until the Board makes a formal change to the policy, the administration and teachers should continue allowing all school approved solid color sweaters and the logo jackets into the classroom and asked Mr. Muhlestein to advise all faculty members as such in the next faculty meeting. Mrs. Morley suggested that as Mrs. Searle is over the dress code, any further discussions or decisions should wait until she is present. Further discussion from the Board needs to happen in the next work meeting on Monday November 6, 2006.

- c. A parent asked whether parents have access to the details of what happens in the closed sessions of the Board especially the voting aspect. Mr. Hogenson explained that the closed sessions are for Board discussion about a person's character, behavior and staff issues or for the purchase of property and as such cannot be opened to the public. Anything falling outside of these categories has to, by law, be discussed in the open meeting and voted on with the parents' comments, questions and concerns being voiced during the voting process.
- d. The Method of teaching was discussed by Mrs. Towse. She asked if the school was heading toward the Socratic Method of teaching it promised to use at the beginning of the year. She also asked if there is training available to the teachers on this Method and how the school is implementing it. Mr. Muhlestein explained that there needs to be a balance of direct instruction and Socratic because it is not possible to teach the Socratic Method in every discipline. Mr. Muhlestein encouraged parents to go into class and participate. Mr. Hogenson explained that the Board wants the teachers to have had the same training so that all teachers are on the same page and can be an inspiration to the students. He explained that teacher training needs to be a priority this year. Mrs. Towse suggested finding someone to train and inspire the teachers in the Socratic Method. A professor from BYU attended the meeting and said that BYU offer a course that would correctly train the teachers in the Socratic Method if needed. Mr. Hogenson asked for a copy of the curriculum and was directed to the BYU website.

Mr. Peterson made a motion to go to closed session, Mrs. Mair seconded and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: The next Board of Trustees General Public Meeting will be held Thursday December 7, 2006, at 7:30 pm, in the Junior High School auditorium.

Items for action:

Eric Hogenson to do a formal letter to the Way and Morley families to thank them for their generosity - by December 7, 2006.

Rob Muhlestein to find out the exact laws regarding fire lanes, paint colors and so forth to enable further discussion regarding the fire lane and parent parking problems – by December 7, 2006.

Vickie Peterson to place survey online for parents to say if they wish to change school in and out times – By December 7, 2006.

Rob Muhlestein to give Mrs. Peterson a condensed income and expenditure report for all donations received – by December 7, 2006.

Vickie Peterson to place an income and expenditure report online for all parents to see where their donations have gone – by December 7, 2006.

Bids from three banks required for application for credit card to be obtained before check issued for certificate of deposit to Central Bank – by December 7, 2006.

Rob Muhlestein to reiterate the current dress code enforcement rules – next faculty meeting on November 3, 2006.