



Alief Montessori Community School

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www.amcsmontessori.org

4th Quarter Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 21, 2024 at 11:00 to 1:35 PM

A regular board meeting of the AMCS board members was held on Friday, June 21, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 1:35 pm in the AMCS middle school conference room at 4203 J St, Houston, TX 77072.

In attendance were Erica McCready (via zoom), Delia Presillas, Elizabeth Smith, Perpetua Salvatus-Guerrero and Paula Palamountain. Also present were Cerlito Salarda (AMCS Asst. Principal), Sophia Teng, Rahila Khawaja, Nancy Chieu and three architects from MHP: Jim Powell, Jose Fernandez and John Krejci.

Paula called the meeting to order at 11:05 am after quorum was established with five board members present.

1. Due to the limited time with the MHP Architects invited to present in the board meeting, the first item discussed was the proposed construction of the AMCS gym and the additional 5 classrooms to be built on the 12010 & 12014 J St. property. Delia asked Architect Jim Powell to discuss the initial plan and estimated cost for the project. Given cost consideration, the original plan was to construct a one-story building with 12,575 SQF for an estimated cost of nearly \$6 Million. Nancy Chieu mentioned that it might be more practical to maximize the area by having a two-story building if the school could afford it. Denden inquired about the floor plan and how much more is it to build a two-story building vs. a one-story. Denden also asked if it is possible to build a base enough to allow for a 2-story but the first floor could be completed until the school's budget could cover it. Architect Jose Fernandez commented that while it is feasible to build a two-story building with the 2nd floor as a shell, it is almost always not pursued due to cost inefficiencies.

Erica also expressed that it seems more practicable to build a two-story building rather than a single story. Denden commented that it would be good to see the design for the two-story building and cost estimates so the board members could decide accordingly. The architects will meet with AMCS administrators to discuss the details of the 2-story option. This will be presented in the next board meeting for approval.

2. Delia asked the board members present to review the minutes of the March 22, 2024 3rd Quarter Regular Board Meeting and the special board meeting held on May 31, 2024. The minutes of the two meetings were approved with a motion from Elizabeth, seconded by Erica. All five board members present, approved.
3. Ms. Sophia requested to present the financial reports next. The board approved the financial statements and actual expenditure ending May 31, 2024 with the authority for AMCS Finance to do a one-time revision in order to finalize the financial reports for the end of the fiscal year (June 30) and the adoption of the proposed 2024-2025 budget following the motion raised by Erica and seconded by Elizabeth.
4. Delia proceeded to present the updates on school operations, as follows:
 - a. Projected SY 2024-24 Student count: 409. As of August 31st, enrollment is at 364. There was a drop in the number of primary (PK-K) students.
 - b. Two new upper elementary classrooms have been added but not necessarily more students in upper elementary. The addition of classrooms was needed to accommodate the transfer of about 20 6th graders to upper elementary from the middle school level.
 - c. Two new upper elementary teachers and TAs hired. Upper elementary has grades 4-6 starting in SY 2024-25.
 - d. Total teachers and staff members: 51
 - e. School Safety and Security Update:
 - e.1 Window and door security films have been installed in all three buildings
 - e.2 New gates and anti-scaling screens have been installed on fences
 - e.3 Plan to install web-based filter and security monitoring for student devices

e.4 AMCS applied for the Safety and Facilities Enhancement Grant, Cycle 2. Projected grant amount is \$150,000.00.

- f. TIA application update: AMCS will be submitting AMCS teachers for designation based on SY 2023-24 student growth in ITBS and T-TESS results.
- g. AMCS-sponsored two faculty members to enroll the AMI Elementary Diploma Course with MINT-Dallas.
- h. SY 2023-24 Evaluating and Improving Student Outcomes (EISO) report:

h.1 STAAR Spring 2024 Update: Passing rates: 92% RLA, 82% Math, 95% Social Studies and 85% Science. There is much room for improvement with most scores in these subjects fall under Approaching at 24% RLA, 27% Science, 35% Social Studies and 39% Math.

h.2 Teaching Strategies GOLD (PK4) and MClass (Grades K-2) produced significantly better scores this year when we adjusted the MOY schedule for testing.

5. EMAT/TEKS Certification for SY 2024-25: The board approved the EMAT/TEKS Certification for SY 2024-25 with a motion from Elizabeth, seconded by Denden.

6. The 2% pay increase for all AMCS teachers and staff for SY 2024-2025 and 4% in medical premium coverage by AMCS (from \$466 to \$486 per staff member) was approved by the board with a motion from Erica and seconded by Paula.

7. The board also approved to change school day Friday instructional time from 8 AM-2:20 PM to 8 AM to 3:20 PM starting in SY 2024-2025 and identifying early release days in the school calendar

- a. October 10: Early release (2:20 PM)-BOY Conference
- b. December 20: Early release (2:20 PM)
- c. January 23: Early release (2:20 PM)-MOY conference
- d. January 24: Student Holiday: MOY conference
- e. May 15: early release: (2:20 PM) EOY conference
- f. May 16: Student holiday, EOY Conference
- g. Daily 45-minute planning time for teachers
- h. Two-day back up instructional time for weather-related closings

8. Delia requested to allow AMCS to be able to hire teachers from international sources through J1 and/or H1-B visa. Denden raised a concern on the limitations and difficulties in using those avenues. Paula clarified that the school may need these options available just in case local resources are unavailable. The board approved this request following the motion from Paula and seconded by Elizabeth. For SY 2024-25, AMCS was able to hire two AMI teachers through the J-1 visa option.

9. The board also approved AMCS to designate SER NINOS as the shared services administrator (SSA) for the Special Ed Consolidated Grant for SY 2024-25 from the motion by Elizabeth and seconded by Erica.

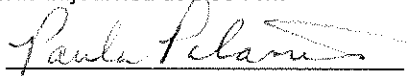
10. The board also approved the proposed board meeting dates for SY 2024-25, per motion from Denden and seconded by Elizabeth.

- a. September 13, 2024
- b. November 15, 2024
- c. March 28, 2025
- d. June 27, 2025

11. The board approved the proposed contract for the AMCS Superintendent for SY 2024-25 per motion from Erica and seconded by Paula.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Approved:


Paula Palamountain, Board President

Elizabeth Smith, Board Secretary