



**STEPPING STONES ACADEMY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

JANUARY 27, 2021

4:00 P.M. MST

VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02 notice is hereby given to the general public that Stepping Stones Academy Board of Directors will hold a meeting open to the public on the specified date and time. A copy of the meeting agenda is available at least 24 hours in advance at Stepping Stones Academy Administrative Office or on its web site. Members of the Board will attend the meeting in person or by telephone conference call. The Board reserves the right to change the order of agenda items with the exception of public hearings set for a specified time. All agenda items are open for discussion and possible action.

Persons in need of translation or with a disability seeking reasonable accommodations are to contact Dedre Stewart-Alliger at 623-465-4910.

CALL TO ORDER

ATTENDANCE

1. Roll Call
2. Recognition of Guests

ROUTINE BUSINESS

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Financial Report

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Staff Recognitions and Celebrations Report
2. Campus Events and Projects Report
3. Student Academic Achievement Report
4. Student Enrollment Report

BUSINESS ITEMS

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A) (2) & (3) the Board of Directors reserves the right to move into executive session for legal advice with its attorney concerning any item listed on the agenda, in person or by telephone, and/or for discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection, including the receipt of information that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state or federal law.

1. 2021-2022 School Calendar
2. 2021-2022 Employee Contracts
3. Personnel Matters

ADJOURNMENT

Date and Time Posted January 25, 2021 2:00 p.m.

Location Posted www.steppingstonesacademy.org and

Stepping Stones Academy Administrative Office, 35812 N. 7th St., Phoenix, AZ 85086

Posted by Tina Panagopoulos and Dedre Stewart-Alliger



STEPPING STONES ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 27, 2021 4:00 P.M. MST
STEPPING STONES ACADEMY VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President Stewart-Alliger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present - Debbie Bauer, Tina Panagopoulos, Anna Shugars, Dedre Stewart-Alliger

Members Absent – N/A

Recognition of Guests – N/A

ROUTINE BUSINESS

1. Approval of Agenda – Bauer motioned to approve the agenda and Shugars seconded the motion.

Ayes – Bauer, Panagopoulos, Shugars, Stewart-Alliger

Nays – None

Motion Carried: 4-0

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – Bauer motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and Shugars seconded the motion.

Ayes – Bauer, Panagopoulos, Shugars, Stewart-Alliger

Nays – None

Motion Carried: 4-0

3. Approval of Financial Reports – Financial report was given for October, 2020 through December, 2020. Shugars motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and Bauer seconded the motion.

Ayes – Bauer, Panagopoulos, Shugars, Stewart-Alliger

Nays – None

Motion Carried: 4-0

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Staff Recognitions and Celebrations Report – Panagopoulos and Stewart-Alliger recognized all of the Stepping Stones Academy staff members for their continued perseverance, academic excellence, and willingness to teach on campus despite the continued Covid-19 pandemic and additional health and safety protocols.

2. Campus Events and Projects Report – Stewart-Alliger reported activities and events are successfully continuing including Boys Basketball, Talent Show, and Mileage Club along with upcoming events such as Book Fair and class parties for AZ Birthday and Valentine's Day. Stepping Stones Academy hosted a Blood Drive in January in honor of Brayden Carpenter, a current 8th grade student fighting leukemia (A.L.L.). Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for February via Zoom or phone call. Panagopoulos and Stewart-Alliger continue to attend weekly Zoom meetings from AZ Charter Schools Association (ACSA) and AZ Department of Health Services (ADHS) to stay current and updated on COVID-19 and protocols/policies/recommendations for schools.

3. Student Academic Achievement Report – Stewart-Alliger reported the latest information from AZ

Department of Education (ADE) concerning the AzM2 (state mandated test). Schools should plan on administering the test to students in 3rd-8th grades in April as currently scheduled. Test results will be utilized to compare student progress from 2019 and schools will not be earning letter grades based on student progress. The AIMS Science test administered to students in 4th and 8th grades will not be administered this year. Stewart-Alliger explained this is not yet confirmed by state leaders and legislators, but is what ADE will be recommending. The Board members discussed the AZ Academic Standards and how the standards are being taught and mastered at Stepping Stones Academy in relation to media reports about students not learning this year and falling behind. Panagopoulos and Stewart-Alliger shared being on campus since last August 17th has assisted with students learning and mastering standards and teachers are working with students in small groups as needed.

4. Student Enrollment Report - Stewart-Alliger reported enrollment is at maximum capacity for Pre-K and maximum capacity for K-8th grades. Families remain on waiting lists. Registration is currently being completed for the 2021-2022 school year with families currently attending Stepping Stones Academy. Open Enrollment for new families wishing to enroll for the 2021-2022 school year is scheduled for February 17, 2021 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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1. 2021-2022 School Calendar – Stewart-Alliger led a discussion in designing the 2021-2022 school calendar. Ideas were shared by Board members and Stewart-Alliger suggested a draft of the 2021-2022 school calendar be completed by Panagopoulos and Stewart-Alliger and provided at the next Board Meeting for review and possible approval.

2. 2021-2022 Employee Contracts – Stewart-Alliger recommended all current employee positions be renewed for the 2021-2022 school year. Shugars motioned to approve all of the employee positions for the 2021-2022 school year. Bauer seconded the motion.

Ayes – Bauer, Panagopoulos, Shugars, Stewart-Alliger

Nays – None

Motion Carried: 4-0

3. Personnel Matters – Stewart-Alliger reviewed the resignations from the Stepping Stones Academy Governing Board of former Board members Liana Doe in October and Anita Murray in November. Stewart-Alliger and Panagopoulos recommended Kristin Morgan as a new Governing Board member bringing the total of Stepping Stones Academy Governing Board members to five. Mrs. Morgan provides a knowledge and expertise of financial matters particularly to charter schools. Shugars motioned to approve Mrs. Kristin Morgan as a Stepping Stones Academy Governing Board member. Bauer seconded the motion.

Ayes – Bauer, Panagopoulos, Shugars, Stewart-Alliger

Nays – None

Motion Carried: 4-0

ADJOURNMENT

Panagopoulos motioned to adjourn the meeting and Bauer seconded the motion.

Ayes – Bauer, Panagopoulos, Shugars, Stewart-Alliger

Nays – None

Motion Carried: 4-0

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.