



The Anchor School

Minutes

Academic Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday June 12, 2024 at 8:00 PM

Location

Virtual

Committee Members Present

E. Desprez Isbell (remote), J. Burton (remote), N. LeBlanc (remote)

Committee Members Absent

None

Guests Present

G. Stevens (remote), J. Pinto Taylor (remote), M. Felts (remote),
kamilyahhardaway@anchorschool.org (remote), larissalong@anchorschool.org (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

N. LeBlanc called a meeting of the Academic Achievement Committee of The Anchor School to order on Wednesday Jun 12, 2024 at 8:04 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

E. Desprez Isbell made a motion to approve the minutes from Academic Achievement Committee Meeting on 04-30-24.

N. LeBlanc seconded the motion.

The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Academic Achievement

A. Finalize Academic Dashboard

The Board will determine which of two academic dashboards the school will move forward with to capture academic milestones, proficiency scores, and demographics for the 2024–2025 school year.

- **The group prefers the Excel version.** Emily's thoughts on additions:
 - Break out the four MAP proficiency areas (don't capture proficiency only)
 - Add a separate year-over-year milestones tab
 - New area to see weekly or monthly assessments and progress

Other testing opportunities:

- Having both D.R.C. Beacon (or another standards aligned testing platform) and MAP would give us a stronger indicator of milestones and proficiency
- TAS staff have experience with U.S.A. Test Prep and Illuminate (which is more rigorous than milestone testing)
- Dr. PT is getting a recommendation from Ms. Andrews in the next week — will have more clarity about the best approach for platform then
- Dr. PT: desire to have an assessment tool to run weekly assessments

Board and TAS staff feel aligned to running both quarterly and weekly assessments in the 2024–2025 school year.

B. Student and Family Handbook

Three important revisions for the 2024–2025 school year:

- Attendance policy: more data that's considered for retention conversations
- Uniform policy: adding clarity on belts and tucked-in shirts; outwear
- Progressive discipline: clearer guidelines for leveled consequences and disciplinary actions (including detailed guidelines on escalation to expulsion)

More additions to the handbook:

- The Board-approved grievance policy has been added to the handbook.
- Community access to the school

Emily's notes on revisions:

- Making sure 2024 dates are added to handbook (making sure dates are accurate)
- Cell phone policy should be added to technology policies
- Grading scales and language that are the Employee Handbook are usually added to Family Handbook
- (non-urgent) consolidating media releases into the Family Handbook

Academic committee is aligned to updates and revisions. Board will come to a vote on updated Family Handbook in the June board meeting.

III. Other Business

A. Academic accreditation

- Dr. Pinto-Taylor had an initial conversation with an accreditation organization, Cognia
- Important to gain accreditation by start of 8th grade at TAS
- Process takes 12–24 months — will need a working group comprised of TAS staff and board members
- One of the first decisions: **which accreditation strand** TAS is interested in (STEM or competency-based learning)

No Board actions at this time. Anticipating a fall vote on which strand we want to choose.

B. Milestones

- No Milestones results at this time

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
N. LeBlanc

The Anchor School is a village of educators, families, and community members that partners with 6th through 12th-grade students* who are developing the knowledge, skills, and confidence

they need to thrive in school and beyond. Through our commitment to excellent instruction, community partnerships, and holistic student development, we cultivate anchors that build a more just and equitable future.

**In August 2022, the SCSC authorized TAS as a GA Charter School with approval to enroll students who will be in the 6th grade in the fall of 2023.*