



# The Anchor School

## Minutes

### Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda posted by: August 21

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#### **Date and Time**

Wednesday August 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM

#### **Location**

The Anchor School  
2460 Wesley Chapel Road  
Decatur, GA 30035

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#### **Directors Present**

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

#### **Directors Absent**

*None*

#### **Ex Officio Members Present**

J. Pinto Taylor

#### **Non Voting Members Present**

J. Pinto Taylor

#### **Guests Present**

G. Stevens, K. Cadman (remote)

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

N. LeBlanc called a meeting of the board of directors of The Anchor School to order on Wednesday Aug 28, 2024 at 7:06 PM.

N. LeBlanc called a meeting of the board of directors of The Anchor School to order on Wednesday Aug 28, 2024 at 7:07 PM.

### C. Approve Minutes

N. LeBlanc made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Directors Meeting on 07-17-24.

J. Burton seconded the motion.

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

N. LeBlanc made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Budget Discussion on 04-25-24.

E. Desprez Isbell seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### D. Public Comment

N. LeBlanc made a motion to amend the agenda to add Public Comment.

E. Desprez Isbell seconded the motion.

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

Parents who are new to TAS this year commended the school, citing its nurturing and safe atmosphere.

## II. Head of School Updates

### A. Executive Director Report

- Great discussion at the Town Hall before this meeting. It was informal but informative and well-attended.
- Enrollment: Day 1 attendance was 196 students.
  - We've more than doubled in one year.
  - We're around 200–210 students right now.
  - There's a wait list for both 6th and 7th grade.

## III. Academic Committee

### A. Academic Dashboard Review

- ELA Milestones: TAS scholars are performing well and are more likely to experience high growth compared to state and county schools

#### IV. Community Engagement

##### A. General Updates

- Board is focusing on developing a PTA this school year
- Encouraging interested parents to reach out to Jasmine Burton or Dr. Pinto-Taylor

#### V. Governance

##### A. Charter Contract Review

- Review of the charter contract (see attached)
- Specific call outs for discussion include the **weighted lottery** (implications of it for prioritization specifically in the next enrollment year) and **micro-village supporting their individualized graduation plans**, and **placed-based learning innovation projects**.
- Dr. Pinto-Taylor proposed that the discussion around the weighted lottery for the FT 25-26 year be determined in committee by the October board meeting.
- There are questions from attendees around the timeline of the lottery (DeKalb county schools is shifting their lottery timelines which is worth TAS researching further)
- There were questions from attendees around how TAS supports students experiencing homelessness (ex: wraparound services, interagency connections to support housing stability and social services)

##### B. Vote: Elect New Board Members

- Voting to approve nominated board members:
  - **Shelby Birch**
  - **Sahitya Kollu**
  - **Amber Pressey**
  - **Carl Humphrey**
  - **Sherrone Torres**
- Nicole will work with Board on Track and 21Cobalt for onboarding, intros, mentorship with the rest of the board members

E. Desprez Isbell made a motion to Vote for Shelby Birch to join the TAS Board of Directors.

N. LeBlanc seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

V. Thompson made a motion to Vote for Sahitya Kollu to join the TAS Board of Directors.

E. Desprez Isbell seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

N. LeBlanc made a motion to Vote for Amber Pressey to join the TAS Board of Directors.

E. Desprez Isbell seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

N. LeBlanc made a motion to Vote for Carl Humphrey to join the TAS Board of Directors.

E. Desprez Isbell seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

N. LeBlanc made a motion to Vote for Sherrone Torres to join the TAS Board of Directors.

E. Desprez Isbell seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### **C. Vote: Elect New Board Officials**

N. LeBlanc made a motion to Vote Nicole LeBlanc to be the Board Chair.

J. Whittington seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

E. Desprez Isbell made a motion to Vote Jasmine Burton to be the Vice Chair.

J. Whittington seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

V. Thompson made a motion to Vote Jaamal Whittington to be the Treasurer.

N. LeBlanc seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

N. LeBlanc made a motion to Vote Emily Isbel to be the Interim Secretary.

J. Burton seconded the motion.

Then we can make space once new folx join if they want to serve

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### **D. Updated Committee Structure**

- **Not a vote for this meeting**
- See attachment for the framework

### **E. Vote: Readopt Bylaws fo SY24-25**

- **Not a vote for this meeting**
- Push this vote to our next board meeting so that we have time to vet the attached recommendations with our legal team
- Additionally there are some points for discussion in later committee meetings

## **VI. New Staffing Needs for TAS**

### **A. Vote: Hire a Personalized Learning Specialist**

- The request and recommendation from staff that the vote allow for a personalized learning specialist in response to the growing student population
- This job has been posted to start seeking candidates
- The purpose of this vote: Approve the position and earmark the budget for this position
- *To note: in the attachment this role should be decoupled from the counselor role/need/description*

N. LeBlanc made a motion to Vote to Hire a Personalized Learning Specialist.

E. Desprez Isbell seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### **B. Vote: Hire a School Counselor**

- Permission to hire or contract a part time counselor
- This part time position (needed in the funds) to make mental health counseling available throughout the day
- We don't currently have a counselor on staff; we do contract with a host of providers (chris180 is still on campus with the same therapist)
- *To note: With the funds we have now, we have prioritized hiring an additional personalized learning specialist and if more funds become available we would then want to hire a full time social worker.*

E. Desprez Isbell made a motion to Vote: Hire a School Counselor.

N. LeBlanc seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### **C. Vote: Hire a Parent Mentor**

- Part-time hire for 20 hours/week to support the school. This would be a parent employee to serve as a liaison between the school and community.
- Grant funding can only be used in this way
- This person would work with/collaborate with Ms. Hardaway

E. Desprez Isbell made a motion to Vote Hire a Parent Mentor.

J. Whittington seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### **VII. Finance Committee**

#### **A. Monthly Financials Summary**

- See attached financial report

#### **B.**

### **Financial Dashboard Review (includes enrollment)**

- See attached financial report (property is the largest projected impact on the bottom line)

#### **C. Vote: Hire a Fractional CFO**

J. Whittington made a motion to Hire a Fractional CFO.

N. LeBlanc seconded the motion.

The goal is to have him join the September Finance Committee meeting

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### **VIII. Head of School Support & Evaluation**

#### **A. HOS Development Update**

- Kelly Cadman update (Hive 180):
  - HOS development plan is 31.8% complete (maybe slightly more)
  - 8 meetings so far in addition to async collaboration in ~ 1 month of work together
  - Recommendation for Dr. Pinto Taylor to have access to EdTech accounts to support with cash management (especially pdfs) and raise questions about timelines for report turn arounds and about the cash on hand codes.

### **IX. Operations**

#### **A. Facilities Report**

- Finished renovating the facility for Year 2 on time (14 operational classrooms)
- Expect more facilities requests (especially HVAC repairs)
- 3–5 more rooms ready by July 1, then RFQ needs to be posted by October (
  - Still determining total costs; may need more bathrooms

### **X. 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 9:00 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.*