



# THE ACADEMY OF ALAMEDA

## The Academy of Alameda Charter School Board

### Minutes

#### Board Retreat

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##### **Date and Time**

Sunday January 26, 2020 at 9:00 AM

##### **Location**

980 Atlantic Blvd, Alameda Ca 94501

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##### **Directors Present**

A. Price, C. Robie, D. Forbes, K. Zimmerman, Q. Chu, R. Brown, R. Whittaker, W. Schaff

##### **Directors Absent**

*None*

##### **Guests Present**

A. Cameron, M. Huxley, M. Thorman, N. Bullock, S. Ivery, summer

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#### **I. Opening Items**

##### **A. Record Attendance and Guests**

##### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

D. Forbes called a meeting of the board of directors of The Academy of Alameda Charter School Board to order on Sunday Jan 26, 2020 at 9:00 AM.

##### **C. C. Public Comments**

##### **D.**

## **The Board of Directors Reviews The Academy of Alameda's Mission and Envisioned Future Statements**

### **II. II. Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Approve January 9, 2020 Special Board Meeting Minutes**

C. Robie made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Board Meeting on 01-09-20.

R. Whittaker seconded the motion.

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

#### **B. Vote on Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2019 Board Meeting**

A. Price made a motion to Approve the minutes from the December 12 Board meeting.

Q. Chu seconded the motion.

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

#### **C. Vote on Consent Agenda**

W. Schaff made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda.

C. Robie seconded the motion.

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

### **III. Board Retreat Agenda**

#### **A. Welcoming Remarks, Review of Agenda**

#### **B. Merging Charters - One Charter or Two?**

The Board and staff discussed the advantages and challenges of merging The Academy of Alameda's two charters.

Key discussion points:

- For the most part, Board members and staff did not think that merging the two charters would impact the instructional programs of the two schools.
- There was wide consensus, however, on the idea that combining the two schools makes much more sense from an operational point of view. Operational efficiencies would result as staff would only have to prepare/maintain one budget, one LCAP, one renewal, etc. (Instead of two)

Merging the two charters also raised some concerns including:

- The fact that one school would need to be closed (legal implications, external concerns - AUSD could not renew one charter and The Academy would cease to exist, etc.)

- That public data would be for grades 3 through 8 - two very different programs (this could also be a positive outcome)

Board members and staff created a list of items that they would need information on to make a sound decision. The next step is for the Board President and Executive Director to meet with the AUSD Superintendent to discuss the idea of merging. Additional information will be brought back to the Board in future meetings.

### **C. How many students should each of our two schools serve?**

The Board and staff discussed the implications of increasing the size of the elementary school and decreasing the size of the middle school in order to serve more students at an earlier age. The theory of action is that serving more students earlier would support our envisioned future of narrowing the opportunity gap.

Key discussion points:

Most Board members and staff agreed that serving more students at an earlier age in theory would be better as you had more time to reduce/eliminate factors that lead to inequitable student outcomes.

While, we could have a larger elementary school logistically and it looks like it might be allowable in our long-term lease, a number of concerns were raised including:

- How it might impact the middle school staff's morale/culture
- How it might impact potential middle school families (Non-AoA families)
- How the AUSD Board might respond
- The sheer challenges of reducing staff at one school and adding more at the other

The overall consensus is that we should track longitudinal data on how elementary students perform in our middle school before making this decision and that it would be best to pursue combining the charters first before exploring this option.

### **D. The Academy's Special Education Program**

### **E. Board Communication**

- Board Members (the staff left early) reviewed and gave feedback to update the Board Communication Protocol In Response to Public Inquiry/Concern Communication.
- The Executive Director (ED) asked Board members if Board member/Executive annual meeting schedule should be created so that there was equitable access to the ED. Board members said that they wanted to keep the process informal and

that they could easily reach the Executive Director when needed by phone, email, or in person.

- Board members gave input into the process to have agenda items placed on future Board meeting agendas. here is now an established process.

**F. Confidential Student Discipline Matter – Consideration of Potential Expulsion Case No.2020001**

D. Forbes made a motion to Revoke the suspended expulsion for Student # 6509221558.

C. Robie seconded the motion.

When the Board returned to public session, the Board President announced that they voted to revoke the suspended expulsion for Student # 6509221558 - thereby expelling the student from The Academy of Alameda

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

**G. Closed Session: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release**

When the Board returned to public session, the Board president announced that no action was taken regarding the closed session item.

**IV. Closing Items**

**A. Closure**

**B. Adjourn Meeting**

R. Whittaker made a motion to Adjourn the Board Retreat at 3:00pm.

Q. Chu seconded the motion.

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

D. Forbes