APPROVED

Alma del Mar

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Friday November 20, 2015 at 8:45 AM

Location
26 Madeira Ave New Bedford MA 02746

Trustees Present
B. Cunningham, C. Arnold, J. Eagle, L. Hicks (remote), M. Blasdale, M. Kay

Trustees Absent
B. Unger, D. Cabral, J. Baptist

Guests Present
B. Kurie, W. Gardner

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

C. Arnold called a meeting of the board of trustees of Alma del Mar to order on Friday Nov 20, 2015 at 8:48 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

D.

Executive Director's Report

W. Gardner discussed PARCC data and goals moving forward. Alma scholars have lots to be proud of.

II. Academic Excellence

A. Meet Liz Liewant, Director of Academic Support

L. Liewant introduced herself to the board. She talked about crafting the approach to serving special populations --ELL, special needs, etc. to ensure we serve each and every scholar we have. She also talked about what's coming up with state testing and how the staff will work with specific schols to make sure they are making progress and have access to the tools to succeed.
L. Liewant also fielded questions from the board.

B. Q1 Academic Achievement Report

E. Stainer had two topics to touch on: PARCC results and update on academics from this year.

PARCC data: Many of the initiatives we've been pursuing agressively are the areas we performed extremely well. Special pops scholars performed incredibly well compared to peers around the state. We've moved all our scholars forward together. Next round of state testing will be in the spring, but as one session instead of two.
Quarter 1 update: Increased difficulty of math curriculum to help prepare our scholars.

Board visit day: Allow board members to see teachers work. Jan. 22 morning, after brief board meeting. Visit should last about 45 minutes.

III. Capital Planning Committee

A. Capital Project Report

Work is 8% complete! Steel going up on Dec. 7
Requisition paid for the first time after closing on time.
Beam signing ceremony planned for Friday, Dec. 11. All day, each crew will get a chance to go out, sign the beam, take a class picture. This is really an internal celebration to recognize that this building is all about the hard work of our scholars and our staff. Parents, board members will be invited as well. 2 p.m. would be a good time to stop by, Hathaway side of property.

IV. Development

A. Development Report

Committee met last Friday. Reminder that elementary expedition will be on Thursday, Dec. 17.
One correction from report: Overall target for fundraising is $300,000 for end of fiscal year in June.
Crib sheets for board members have been updated with information on PARCC results and attrition.

V. Governance

A. Governance Committee Report

Committee's focus is recruiting some new board members, working on the by-laws, and crafting a review process for W. Gardner.

VI. Leader

A. Adult Culture at Alma

W. Gardner shared his plan for building a strong adult culture at Alma. What is the experience like to work at Alma? Less interested in the technical things, more interested is the idea of what it's like to work here. W. Gardner has done surveys and also conducted one-on-one meetings with a few teachers to hear their thoughts and ideas.

VII. 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 10:23 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
B. Kurie