APPROVED

Alma del Mar

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting (IN PERSON)

Date and Time
Friday May 31, 2024 at 9:00 AM

Location
Alma del Mar Family Center
Fisher College
777 Church Street
New Bedford, MA 02745

Anti-Racism Statement: Alma del Mar strives to be an anti-racist institution. We seek to dismantle racist and white supremacist structures in pursuit of justice and racial equity. We will fight against racism when we encounter it both within and outside of our school community. We will actively work to ensure that all of our community members, including scholars, families, and staff, feel included, celebrated and empowered. By resisting racism and white supremacy, we will lay the foundation to challenge all forms of oppression.

Trustees Present
A. Cortez, C. Bator, C. Holley, D. Melo, D. Prentiss, G. Fortes, J. Korn (remote), M. Bride

Trustees Absent
C. Wood, M. Rosario, Y. Dennis

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened
A. Cortez, D. Melo

Guests Present

Angela Hernandez, B. Kurie, New Bedford Cable Access, T. DeLoach

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I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Prentiss called a meeting of the board of trustees of Alma del Mar to order on Friday May 31, 2024 at 9:05 AM.

C. Approve April Board Meeting Minutes

C. Holley made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting (VIRTUAL) on 04-26-24.
G. Fortes seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Equity Moment

B. Kurie shared about La Respuesta (The Answer), a pilot initiative, funded by a DESE grant, that aims to enhance support for scholars and school staff. We believe that with increased family support, we can enhance the stability in our buildings; continue to build a culture and climate that fosters healing relationships; and, allow for us to transform our connection with families into true partnerships in support of our scholars. Who better to call than our families - they are the answer to our challenge - La Respuesta.

B. Kurie introduced the Board to **Angela Hernandez,** the mom of Douglass sixth grade scholar, Noel, and seventh grade scholar, Ricardo, who is one of three school aides working under La Respuesta.
A. Cortez arrived.

E. Equity Lens for Board Decisions and Committee Work

II. Executive Director Report

A. Dashboard

D. Melo arrived.
Trustees asked about the drop in attendance rates, chronic absenteeism trends, and what is being done to improve attendance. T. DeLoach shared that some Alma families have opted to take vacations during school weeks, rather than break weeks, as being one reason for increased absences. B. Kurie is updating the attendance policy language for clarity around absences and the importance of scholars being in school every day.

Trustees also asked about the increase in in-school suspensions. T. DeLoach shared that both campuses have been working to decrease suspensions by coaching teachers and support staff on alternative tactics to address behaviors.

B. Executive Director's Report

III. Academic Excellence

A. Academic Excellence Report

The Board will receive updates on 8th grade matriculation plans at the June meeting.

Trustees are invited to attend 8th grade passage presentations at Douglass Campus, at 3:45 pm on June 3, June 4, June 10, June 11, and June 12. B. Kurie will reach out to trustees about this opportunity.

IV. Finance

A. FY24 Q3 Financials

C. Holley reported that final state numbers will come out soon, and the final budget will be presented in June.

V. Governance

A. Consent Agenda

G. Fortes reported that the board will implement a consent agenda as part of the regular board meetings next school year.

B. Property Purchase Update

D. Prentiss reported progress on the purchase of adjacent property on Church Street.

VI. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

C. Bator made a motion to enter executive session To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual; only to return to adjourn the regular meeting.
G. Fortes seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Bator Aye

Roll Call

J. Korn	Aye
C. Wood	Absent
D. Prentiss	Aye
M. Bride	Aye
D. Melo	Aye
A. Cortez	Aye
C. Holley	Aye
G. Fortes	Aye
Y. Dennis	Absent
M. Rosario	Absent

B. CEO Evaluation & Compensation Committee

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 10:05 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
B. Kurie

Documents used during the meeting

- Equity Lens for Board Decisions and Committee Work.docx.pdf
- May 2024 Board Dashboard - Sheet1.pdf
- E.D. Report 5-31-24.pdf
- Alma del Mar La Respuesta Job Posting 2023-2024.docx