

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ARISTOI CLASSICAL ACADEMY, INC.
March 23, 2021**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of Aristoi Classical Academy, Inc., charter holder for Aristoi Classical Academy, was held on **Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at the School**, 5610 Morton Road, Katy, TX 77493-1971.

1. Call to order and establishment of a quorum. L. Botond called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Also in attendance were J. Craig, A. Hovis, G. Ferguson, R. Williams, A. Cox, L. Botond, A. Amboree, K. Locheed, T. Boling, J. Malone, B. Davidson, D. Guel, and D. Cummins.
2. Hearing of Citizens. Those in favor of the removal of masks were Alfredo Galvez, Sean Dullahon, George Grinestaff, Lisa Ratliff, Karl Ullrich, Mollie Ullrich, Gloria Petter, Nadia Simmons, Mike Hansell and Katherine Galvez. Those in favor of reinstating the mask mandate were Stacy Fresquez, David Calvillo, Valerie Calvillo, Anthony Flores, Anneca Sarver, B.J. Sarver, Joseph Lockett, Jason Thomas, Lauren Sledge, Hannah Roland, and Robyn Brockinton. Some of the teachers commenting in favor of masks meant to give their comments under the grievance item, rather than Hearing of Citizens.
3. Discuss, consider, and approve an application for high quality campus designation for two campuses to open during the 2021-2023 school years and accompanying board resolution. The school must reapply for the high quality designation for each new campus. Motion to approve an application for high quality campus designation for two campuses to open during the 2021-2023 school years and accompanying board resolution: A. Hovis. Second: R. Williams. Unanimous approval.
4. Discuss, consider, and approve submission of an application for the 2021-2023 Charter School Program Grant. A. Amboree stated that one campus needs to be open for the 2021-2022 school year and another the following year in order to get priority points for the grant. Motion to approve submission of an application for the 2021-2023 Charter School Program Grant: L. Botond. Second: G. Ferguson. Unanimous approval.
5. Discuss, consider, and approve the withdrawal of amendments #252-20/1-3 regarding incorrect language for Aristoi's mission, vision, and philosophy. Discuss, consider and approve a non-expansion amendment and board resolution with the correct language for Aristoi's mission, vision and philosophy. Motion to approve the withdrawal of amendments #252-20/1-3 regarding incorrect language for Aristoi's mission, vision, and philosophy and approve a non-expansion amendment and board resolution with the correct language for Aristoi's mission, vision and philosophy: A. Hovis. Second: A. Cox. Unanimous approval.
6. Review and consider grievances related to the Board's removal of mask mandate and related actions. Teachers spoke with a five minute time limit regarding grievances filed related to the removal of the mask mandate. Teachers that spoke in favor of reinstating the mask mandate were Sarah Davis, Amireh Judah, Dr. Ronald Montgomery, Brittney

Revia (via a letter read by Dr. Gruber), Shonee Singer, Shannon Laich, Dr. Gwendolyn Gruber, Anneca Sarver, B. J. Sarver, Joseph Lockett, Bethany Hassell, and Katrina Bolman. Sarah Durst and Rebekah Herty did not attend the meeting but had filed grievances with the board. The Board heard all grievances and then adjourned to deliberate the requests to reinstate mandatory masks on campuses.

7. Adjournment to closed or executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 of the Open Meetings Act for the following purposes:
 - A. Private consultation with the Board's attorney on all subjects or matter authorized by law
 - B. Consider legal advice regarding grievances related to the Board's removal of mask mandate and related actions
 - C. Consider legal advice regarding personnel issues
 - D. Consider legal advice regarding any agenda listed item

Adjourned to closed session at 7:25 p.m.

8. Reconvene in open session. Reconvened in open session at 8:37 p.m.
9. Discuss, consider, and take action on any items discussed in closed session. Each board member took the opportunity to express their reasons for voting to approve or reject the grievance requests to reinstate mandatory masks on campuses. Mr. Williams spoke in support of the teachers' wishes as they are so important to the school and its success. Andy Hovis recognized that the school board is being placed in the position of making this decision and that individual choice should be honored. He pointed out that some are saying people who wear a mask when told to do so are demonstrating virtue; but, if they're wearing a mask against their will, that cannot be described as a display of virtue. Julie Craig expressed agreement with Mr. Williams' position that the teachers' requests should be supported. Adriana Cox thanked the teachers for their work for the students but advocated for the rights of individuals to make their own choices. Gary Ferguson supported the rights of individuals to make their own medical choices and cautioned against policies which would sacrifice freedom. Lucina Botond questioned the constitutionality of government mask mandates and the complete lack of scientific evidence that long term mask wearing is harmless to children and adults. Additionally, she warned that Aristo should be a place where the advice of experts and government agencies can be questioned, where we can think critically, and where we can disagree agreeably. Motion to reject the grievances from staff related to the Board's removal of the mask mandate and to keep masks optional: L. Botond. Second: A. Hovis. Ayes: L. Botond, A. Hovis, G. Ferguson, and A. Cox. Nays: R. Williams, and J. Craig. Masks will remain optional.
10. Discuss items to be placed on the April Regular Meeting Agenda. Handbooks, Proforma, astronomy textbook, surveys, Cabbi Lamb and core group from Gainesville, TX

11. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn: A. Cox. Second: R. Williams. Unanimous approval.
Meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Prepared by Julie Craig

This is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on March 23, 2021, as
approved by the Board of Directors on April 19, 2021.

Lucina R Botond

Lucina R. Botond, Board President