

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
ARISTOI CLASSICAL ACADEMY, INC.
January 22, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Aristoi Classical Academy, Inc., charter holder for Aristoi Classical Academy (“School”) was held on **Monday, January 22, at 5:30 p.m., at the school**, 5610 Morton Road, Katy, TX 77493-1971 in classroom F1.

1. Call to order and establishment of a quorum. – L. Botond called the meeting to order at **5:30 pm**. Also present were B. Havlik, A. Hovis, C. Gillespie, M. Watson, A. Amboree, K. Locheed, and J. Creech. A. Cox was unable to attend and D. Light joined the meeting at 5:59 p.m. M. Pertuso joined via video conference.
2. Hearing of citizens. – Cypress parent, Randy Pineda, wanted to address his perception of a lack of support staff which he believes may lead to behavior issues. Additionally, Mr. Pineda’s wife made efforts to volunteer but never received any follow-up to get fingerprinted. Finally, Mr. Pineda addressed class makeup, and how students are being placed into classes which he feels could be a favoritism issue.
3. Approve Consent Agenda: **Motion to Approve Consent Agenda without the Report from the Budget and Finance Committee: C. Gillespie, Second: A. Hovis, APPROVED: Unanimously**
 - a. Minutes for December 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting
 - b. Superintendent’s Report
 - c. Financial Update from Business Office
 - d. Report from Budget Finance Committee
4. Discuss and consider update on PSAT test results. – K. Locheed reports that there was an overall improvement; however, there was a small decrease in the Freshman scores. The comparison between Aristoi and State scores show that Aristoi still trends higher in all areas. This year, all seniors will have the opportunity to take the CLT (Classical Learning Test). This is an opportunity to see how Aristoi students perform compared to other classical school students. Over 250 universities already except CLT scores and offer scholarship opportunities based on these results.
5. Discuss and consider update on 2023 HB3 3rd Grade Reading STAAR results.- The Board of Directors is required to set goals in three areas that are monitored over five years. The current monitoring calendar runs through 2024, so work will need to begin on updated Board goals. K. Locheed reports that third grade reading exceeded expectations with 66% of 3rd grade students scoring at “meets grade-level” or above. Campuses have been utilizing the added workdays by allowing time for teachers to work together on planning, which has helped improve student outcomes. M. Pertuso reports that Cypress results are also continuing to trend upward. Scores are reflecting that students who have been continuously enrolled at Aristoi are exceeding expectations while there has been a significant need for additional support for new students. More instructional time has been added for third and fourth grade reading and further support

is being offered by the Reading Interventionist and the Dyslexia Specialist. Mr. Pertuso has also seen improvement in student outcomes due to the increased planning time offered to teachers.

6. Discuss and consider update on Fall 2023 STAAR Interim Benchmark results. – K. Locheed reported big gains in the 3rd and 4th grade math scores, with a large increase in Mastery numbers. The STAAR looks closely at student improvement so showing the increase will be helpful. There is some disparity in the math numbers, because of the number of students who are taking Algebra 1. The 8th graders in Algebra 1 do not take the 8th grade math STAAR but are the students who have reached mastery level. This is why Aristoi's 8th grade math scores tend to be lower. M. Pertuso reports that the math interventionist at Cypress has been working to analyze the questions that students have difficulty with. The two- or three-part questions have been most missed, with the youngest students often answering only the first part of multi-part questions. Singapore math is the curriculum being used at Aristoi, and since it isn't aligned in the same order as the TEKS, it's proven effective to adjust the order that new concepts are being introduced in 4th grade in order to better prepare the students for the STAAR.
7. Discuss and consider survey report from Dr. Bourgeois of Ahart Solutions. –This is the 6th year that Dr. Bourgeois has been surveying the Aristoi community. The current survey received a much higher number of staff and parent responses as compared to last year, reflecting higher community engagement. The number of student surveys was the highest in Aristoi history. The NPS (net promoter scores) show that parents are likely to recommend Aristoi to others. The NPS scores for students were much lower. The data collected will help determine topics of discussion for the focus groups.
8. Discuss and consider an update on the Cypress Campus, including but not limited to enrollment, facilities, renovations, leadership team and faculty. – M. Pertuso reported that there are currently 436 students enrolled with a total of 382 applicants for next year. The chess club and tennis club have been added to the extracurriculars being offered and the inaugural swim season just concluded. Planning has begun for the next academic year, and meetings have been taking place with Crossover Bible church to discuss the use of facilities. All positions have been filled except for counselor.
9. Discuss and consider an update on the Katy Grammar School, including but not limited to enrollment, facilities, renovations, leadership team and faculty. – K. Locheed reported that they continue to be fully staffed but have some great candidates if more positions become available. Winnie the Pooh day was a huge success. Work has started on the master schedule, with the possibility of adding PE five days a week, which would give teachers 90 more minutes of planning time. K. Locheed requested consideration of adding turf to the back parking lot area to improve the recess facilities.
10. Discuss and consider an update on the Katy Upper School (Logic and Rhetoric Schools), including but not limited to enrollment, facilities, renovations, leadership team and faculty. - The Upper School remains fully staffed and is still receiving emails inquiring about positions. There are 47 Seniors that are preparing for graduation, which

will likely be the last graduation held in the Griffin Center. Administration is looking into possibly adding another section of Juniors and another section of Seniors for next year. Preparations have begun for the Goblet of Apollo. Dr. Davis of Houston Christian University will be the graduation speaker.

11. Discuss, consider, and approve the annual financial report for Fiscal Year ended August 31, 2023.- A representative from Whitley Penn attended to make their presentation to the board. There were no internal control findings related to financial reporting or compliance.

Motion to Approve the Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year ended August 31, 2023, with the Requested Changes to the section “Bond Covenants” on pg. 22 of the Whitley Penn Report: A. Hovis, Second: B. Havlik, APPROVED: Unanimously

12. Discuss and consider updates on the capital campaign.

Motion to Extend the Silent Phase and Update the Capital Campaign Plan: L. Botond, Second: A. Hovis, APPROVED: Unanimously

13. Discuss and consider pro forma financial statements. – The attendance factor was reduced to 95% with more funding allocated to facilities starting in FY 2025.

14. Discuss and consider updates to the Aristoi Expansion Plan and Financing. - There is a renewed urgency to secure a second location for Aristoi Cypress. Work is being done to refine the FY 2025 budget to accommodate a bond issue to purchase a permanent Cypress location or to fund the costs of launching a new campus in a leased facility. The West Houston campus has yet to secure a location for Fall '24 so discussions with possible lease partners will begin to focus on a 2025 launch date. It will be imperative that any necessary renovations don't negatively affect the overall debt service ratio of the Aristoi network. Plans for construction of a new Katy Grammar have been paused. A portion of the new bond issue will be allocated to funding the construction of a second gym in Katy that will accommodate lunches and the growing athletic program. It was also recommended that the administration research utilizing any federal grants available to construct a gymnasium that would double as a shelter-in-place facility. C. Gillespie was familiar with other districts who have used FEMA Grants to fund similar projects.

Motion to Update the Expansion Plan to Accommodate Cypress Growth with a Revised or New Lease or Property Purchase as Part of a Bond Issue: L. Botond, Second: C. Gillespie, APPROVED: Unanimously

15. Discuss, consider, and approve the search radius for expansion of the Cypress Campus. M. Watson proposed increasing the search radius for Cypress campus to include properties up to fifteen- minutes away from the current location. C. Gillespie expressed concern over having too great a distance between the Cypress Grammar and Logic & Rhetoric and the implications it would have on families with students at both locations. C. Gillespie suggested that if the administration use a fifteen- minute radius as the new guideline, any further locations will likely need to accommodate all Cypress students.

Administration will continue to explore all options, up to and including properties within a wider radius; however, no Board actions are required at this time.

16. Discuss and consider an update on planning and progress of the West Houston Campus. Securing a lease for a Fall '24 launch date continues to be challenging, especially given the increasingly abbreviated timeline to complete any necessary renovations and permitting. Despite the difficulties of securing a location, there are already 50 students registered for Fall '24.
17. Discuss items to be placed on the February Regular Meeting Agenda.
 - CCMR Results
 - West Houston Update
18. Discuss, consider, and approve renewal of contract with Petrus Development.
-Motion for Nonrenewal of Contract with Petrus Development: L. Botond, Second: B. Havlik, APPROVED: Unanimously
-Motion to Delegate Authority to Administration to Work with Maureen Singleton of Thompson & Horton, LLC to Determine Advisability of Updating Existing Contract with Petrus Development: L. Botond, Second: C. Gillespie, APPROVED: Unanimously
19. Discuss and consider lease of property for campus in West Houston area. – **TABLED**
20. Discuss and consider personnel matters on individual employees and prospective employees. – **To be discussed in closed session**
21. Adjournment to closed or executive session pursuant to the following Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074 of the Open Meetings Act, for the following purposes: **Adjourned at 8:43 p.m.**
 - a. Legal Matters; Consultation with Attorney (Tex. Gov. Code § 551.071)
 - b. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, private consultation with the Board's attorney, in person or by phone, when the Board seeks the advice of its attorney about: 1) pending or contemplated litigation; 2) a settlement offer; or 3) on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meeting Laws
 - i. Consultation with legal counsel regarding settlement of dispute with Peter Brownell
 - ii. Receive legal advice concerning any item listed on meeting agenda/ notice
 - c. Deliberation Regarding Officers and Employees (Tex. Gov. Code § 551.074)
 - i. Deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of individual employees; or to hear a

- complaint or charge against an officer or employee
 - ii. Deliberate recommendation of administration on actions relating to individual employees and employment of person to fill vacant position.
 - d. Real Estate (Tex. Gov. Code § 551.072)
 - i. Deliberate the lease of property for campus in West Houston area.
22. Reconvened to open session at **9:39 p.m.**
23. Take action on matters discussed in closed session.
Motion to Not Accept Mr. Brownell's Counteroffer: L. Botond, Second: C. Gillespie, APPROVED: Unanimously
24. **Motion to Adjourn: A. Hovis, Second: B. Havlik, APPROVED: Unanimously**
Adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Prepared by C. Gillespie

This is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on January 22, 2024, as approved by the Board of Directors on February 26, 2024.



Lucina Botond, Board President