

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

February 26, 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, February 26, 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 A. Cox, B. Havlik, A. Hovis, D. Light, C. Gillespie, M. Watson, A. Amboree, K. Locheed, M. Pertuso, and J. Creech.
2. Hearing of citizens. – **None**
3. Approve Consent Agenda: **Motion to Approve Consent Agenda: C. Gillespie, Second: A. Hovis, APPROVED: Unanimously**
 - a. Minutes for January 22, 2024, Regular Board Meeting
 - b. Superintendent’s Report
 - c. Financial Update from Business Office
 - d. Report from Budget Finance Committee
 - e. Update to the TEA Cyclical Monitoring Report for Special Education
4. Discuss and consider possible bond issue. Hear from Drew Masterson from Masterson Advisors. – Drew Masterson appeared in person and advised on the two possible methods of financing available. The first option would be to refinance our current bonds, which offers the benefit of being able to rewrite the bond covenants and the possibility of paying interest only to improve the DSR (debt service ratio) numbers for the 2025 and 2026 fiscal years. If we refinance the 2016 bonds, there would be a 5% net savings over the life of the bonds. There is also the possibility of pursuing new project funding (majority to be used for the Cypress expansion project); however, this will require permission from our current bondholder who is likely not interested in taking on further debt. The long-term rates have gone down around 1% over the last year. The goal is to close on financing by July 2, regardless of which option is chosen.
5. Discuss, consider, and approve the 990 Report for fiscal year ended August 31, 2023.- **TABLED**
6. Discuss, consider, and approve waiver for the staff professional development day held on January 3, 2024.
Motion to Approve Professional Development Waiver for the Symposium held on January 3, 2024: A. Hovis, Second: L. Botond, APPROVED: Unanimously
7. Discuss and consider update on 2023 HB3 3rd Grade Math STAAR results. - K. Locheed reports that there was a decrease of a few points as a result of the test now being administered online. The Board’s approved goal for math was that 47% of students would “meet or master” the math portion of STAAR. Katy Campus has implemented

into their schedule a 70-minute math block for first and second grades. The math interventionist at Katy Grammar has been working with the teachers to strategize the best use for this time. M. Pertuso still reports that the influx of new students from surrounding districts that are coming to Aristo behind grade level (sometimes as much as 2-3 years below grade level) has caused a dip in the scores. Cypress students were below the Board's approved goal. Cypress will also be increasing the number of minutes dedicated to math and additionally working with the math interventionist on the most effective scaffolding technique for teaching Singapore math while still familiarizing students with all the concepts that will be on the STAAR test prior to the April testing dates. HB 1416 requires that if a child doesn't pass the STAAR test, the school must provide a certain number of hours of tutoring.

8. Discuss and consider update on Gala fundraising and planning. – Dr. Klugewicz reports that fundraising projections are in a good position when compared with last year. The raffle ticket sales will be launching on March 1. There are 29 volunteers scheduled to help with setting up the day of the event. Alissa Hovis and Danielle Henry have been instrumental in securing sponsorships and donations. Joseph Pierce was announced today as the Gala speaker. The marketing department has experienced some difficulty with changing donation platforms from Donor Perfect to Give Butter.
9. Discuss and consider an update on the Cypress Campus, including but not limited to enrollment, facilities, renovations, leadership team and faculty. – M. Pertuso reports that Cypress has been working to build community relationships with outside organizations, one example being the Little Wranglers dance group that performed for Go Texan Day. Some exciting upcoming events include the second annual Goblet of Apollo on March 8, Dr. Suess Day, Coffee with Headmaster, and Tolkien Day. The soccer season is underway, and the girls' team has been performing well. Administration is working with Crossover Church on how best to accommodate all classes for grades K-9 next year. The PTO graciously donated a sound system and portable floor covering for the gym. Enrollment for next year has reached 540 students, including the 98 spots that have been offered to new students. The 2024-2025 employment vacancies will be posted soon, to begin conducting those interviews.
10. Discuss and consider an update on the Katy Grammar School, including but not limited to enrollment, facilities, renovations, leadership team and faculty. – K. Locheed was proud to report the enthusiastic responses from teachers when the letters of intent were sent out, with only two teachers not planning to return next year. Administration has been troubleshooting solutions that will give the teachers more planning time in the future. Upcoming events at Katy Grammar include the Father-Daughter Dance and the Fourth Grade Living History Museum. Mrs. Locheed has been working with the Facilities Department on a plan for campus beautification and the possible purchase and installation of turf.
11. 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. – K. Locheed reports that the preliminary draft of the master schedule has been

completed. Katy Logic, under the leadership of Ms. Garrison, just hosted a school dance. The basketball and soccer teams are performing well this season. Katy Upper School had several students attend the Junior Classical League and brought home the trophy in Latin. There are forty-eight Seniors this year and preparations are well underway for graduation, including the announcement of the speaker, Dr. Davis of Houston Christian University. Next year, there could be as many as seventy-five students graduating. This year's graduation may be the last one held on Aristoi's campus due to the growing size of our graduating classes.

12. Discuss and consider updates on the capital campaign. – The silent phase of the capital campaign has been extended. Dr. Klugewicz is conducting meetings with committee members to keep them up to date on the new timeline.
13. Discuss and consider updates to the Aristoi Expansion Plan and Financing. – The scope of work, based on the updated Expansion plan, will need to be discussed with the architect. Administration will need to coordinate with attorneys on what Board actions will be needed prior to posting notice for contractors.
14. Discuss and consider an update on planning and progress of the West Houston Campus.- J. Creech is still working to secure a location for the 24-25 Academic Year; however, this is proving to be increasingly challenging under the budget limitations and timeline in order to make all the necessary campus preparations. Mr. Creech reports that a turnkey facility is the most feasible option.
15. Discuss items to be placed on the March Regular Meeting Agenda.
 - a. Pay Scales- Teacher and Staff
 - b. West Houston Lease
 - c. Bond Decision
 - d. IRS 990 Form
 - e. CCMR
 - f. Posting Notice for Contractor
16. Discuss and consider lease of property for campus in West Houston area. – **TABLED**
17. Discuss, consider, and approve the addition of another Board Member to the Budget and Finance Committee.
Motion to Approve the Addition of B. Havlik to the Budget and Finance Committee: L. Botond, Second: C. Gillespie, APPROVED: Unanimously
18. Adjournment to closed or executive session pursuant to the following Texas Government Code § 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084 of the Open Meetings Act, for the following purposes: **Adjourned at 7:05 pm**
 1. Legal Matters; Consultation with Attorney (Tex. Gov. Code §551.071)
 - a. Pursuant to Texas Government Code §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

- b. Consultation with legal counsel regarding investigation requested by board
- c. Consultation with legal counsel regarding consulting contract and related matters
- d. Consultation with legal counsel on possible legal action
- e. Receive legal advice concerning any item listed on meeting agenda/ notice

- 2. Deliberation Regarding Officers and Employees (Tex. Gov. Code §551.074)
 - a. 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
 - b. Deliberate resignations and potential resignations of individual employees in a department
 - c. Deliberate dismissal of an employee and reassignment of duties
 - d. Deliberate recommendations of administration on employment of individual(s) and assignment of duties
 - e. Hear a complaint or a charge against an officer or employee
- 3. Deliberation regarding Real Estate (Tex. Gov. Code §551.072) and negotiation for the potential purchase of property for Cypress Campus

19. Reconvened to open session at **8:39 pm**.

20. Take action on matters discussed in closed session, including the following:

Motion to Delegate Authority to Administration to Take Action on Items Discussed in Closed Session under Tex. Gov. Code §551.074 and to Work With Attorney on the Purchase of Property for Cypress Campus: L. Botond, Second: A. Cox, APPROVED: Unanimously

21. **Motion to Adjourn: A. Cox, Second: B. Havlik, APPROVED: Unanimously**
Adjourned at **8:44 pm**.

Prepared by Laura C. Gillespie

This is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on February 23, 2024, as approved by the Board of Directors on March 25, 2024.



Lucina Botond, Board President