



Ashé
Preparatory Academy

**Ashé Prep Board Meeting – Minutes
March 12, 2019**

- ❖ Location: Ashé Prep Office at 11625 Rainier Avenue South Seattle, WA 98118
- ❖ Call to Order: 5:34pm
- ❖ Present
 - Board: Casey Castello, Khavin Debbs, Ed Jefferson, Derrick Johnson, Debra Sullivan, Marjon WayBonkanna
 - Staff: Fa'izah Bradford, Monique Harrison
 - Guests: Holly Morris
- ❖ Absent
 - Board: Jim Valiere
- ❖ Core Value Discussion/Check-In
 - Umoja (Unity) – To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, and nation
 - Kujichagulia (Self-Determination) – To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves
 - Ujima (Collective Work & Responsibility) – To partnership internally & externally on behalf of other people's children
 - Nia (Purpose) – To know the purpose of our lives and bring our people to greatness
 - Ku'umba (Creativity) – To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than when we inherited it
 - Imani (Conviction) – To believe in ourselves, our peers, our families, and our communities
- ❖ Public Comment: None
- ❖ Consent Agenda Items: None
- ❖ Review February Minutes: There are no changes to the minutes.
- ❖ Enrollments & Registration
 - Applications – Enrollment closed March 1st with no need for a lottery. We have 115 applications so far (over 75%).
 - Approximately 50 families attended the March 9th Enrollment event.
 - Enrollment Packets are due by March 30th.
 - Families can come to the Ashé Prep office from 9am - 1pm to drop off and/or get assistance with completing the packet.

❖ Future Events

- April 27th will be a Founding Families Meeting (review and discuss Student Handbook, possible uniform options)
- Upcoming Information Session March 26th
- Board members are invited and encouraged to attend events, but need to email Monique Harrison so we will know if there is a quorum and a need to appropriately post.

❖ Facilities Update & LLC Discussion (Ashé Community of Schools)

- The landlords of the prospective 500 Building have declined our proposal to lease.
- \$9000 was spent on a transportation analysis
- We are back on the hunt for a building - we have several possibilities, which will need tenant improvements (Community Bible Fellowship, Southside Church of Christ). We may be in a place temporarily for 2-3 years while we pursue a more long-term solution.
- LLC - Because the school cannot take debt as a State institution, it is recommended that we create an LLC. The proposed name is Ashé Community of Schools.
- Question - Is there a legal challenge in having shared board members with Ashé Prep? Answer – No. In fact, it is recommended that the two entities share 2-3 Board members.
- A suggestion was made that we start thinking about the implications for also being an early learning center and start thinking about ourselves as a Charter Management Organization (CMO). Our AIM is to be four schools: Early Learning Center, Elementary, Middle School, and High School. There are great benefits and increased funding options in becoming a CMO.

❖ Curriculum Discussion

- Monique Harrison shared the Instructional Model - suggestion made about changing the wording to say that we are aligned with the State's education goal.
- We have growth goal of 85% academic proficiency and we are measured/evaluated over multiple years.
- Math K-8 is Common Core aligned. We are considering Eureka Math (Engage New York) and Wit and Wisdom (Great Minds). We are currently mapping the curriculum backwards so that we are addressing prerequisites
- Students will be taught at grade level and be encouraged to engage in productive struggle.
- We are thinking about what the Common Core standards look like across each grade level (e.g. beginning to master 5th grade standard in the 4th grade)
- State of Washington has performance tasks for Social Studies that will align with our project-based and grade-level community focus.
- Science is aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). We can create our own "Ashé-made science kits"
- Monique Harrison will invite those on the Curriculum Committee to review the drafted frameworks.
- A request was made for the Board to receive a one-pager on the curriculum, pedagogical framework, and academic benchmarks; including a summary paragraph (elevator pitch).

❖ Board Goals/Retreat

- Dr. Sullivan would like for the Board to have a work retreat (4 - 6 hours) – a great idea/time to come together to finalize academic and operational goals and fellowship. Time is a great consideration for the group
- What are the Board goals that we can accomplish by August 1st?

- Strategic Fundraising Plan
- Board-approved goals
- Community Engagement goals (Founding Council of Elders)
- Committee goals (e.g. clarify who is taking the lead in their respective committees, identify parents to be involved in the committees)
- F1 completed by April 15 (short-term goal)
- Policy Adoption - Monique Harrison will have those ready by the next Board meeting

❖ **Principal's Report**

- Holly Morris of Global Voice - Sharing Investor Slide Deck
- Request of the Board - Applying for Small Business Innovation Research Grant and would like a letter of support from a school that is determining that they are willing to sign on to participate in the Global Voice Pilot Program (there is no monetary cost to pilot participants). The Pilot isn't anticipated to start for a year. Ashé Prep can assess at that time to determine any benefit at that time.
- Concerns – We need to make sure student privacy and data is secured. Will this help students with academic English proficiency? Marjon WayBonkanna would like to have further clarification about the product before making any decision. (Monique Harrison will put Holly and Marjon in contact).

❖ **3rd Grade**

- We are approaching 20 requests for 3rd grade students, warranting a Community Need to open 3rd grade this year. This would bring us to the point of becoming a full K-8 by Year 3.
- Letter of request is drafted to be submitted to the Charter Schools Commission.
- We currently have 22/50 1st grade students, so we would eliminate one of the 1st grade classrooms - swapping for 3rd grade.
- The Commission Board is meeting March 22 and we should know soon after if the 3rd grade opening is approved.
- Concerns: There will be an increased burden to the leadership team (curriculum and instruction will need to be at an all-time high if we're going to meet our academic and operational goals in this first year). We will be adding another testing year (3rd grade) so we need to have follow-up conversations for what this will mean for school operations.
- Dr. Sullivan will add "if needed" language to the letter.
- The curriculum was already being written to include K-3.

❖ **Next Meeting: April 9, 2019**

❖ **Meeting adjourned at 8pm**