



*Ashé*  
Preparatory Academy

**Ashé Prep Special Board Meeting – Minutes**  
**October 1, 2019**  
**5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**  
**Ashe' Preparatory Academy**

This Special Meeting is to receive a staffing and enrollment update from the Executive Director, review the parent-proposed strategic plan, (submitted by a cohort of parents), establish an ad-hoc nomination committee, discuss potential nominees, and consider the continuation of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level offering.

Called to order at 5:33pm

Board Present: Ed Jefferson, Casey Castello, Jim Valiere, Marjon Way-Bonkaana, Derrick Johnson, Khavin Debbs

Staffing and Enrollment Update

- Dr. Sullivan provided staffing and enrollment update – coverage for 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades uncertain at the time of the Special Meeting of the Board
  - Casey expressed grave concern about that – instructed Dr. Sullivan to email 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents immediately following meeting of the Board to inform them of who the qualified, certificated teachers would be in those classes
- Enrollment down to ~90 students
  - Triggers requirement to inform the Commission given enrollment dropped by more than 20%
- Board discussed the insufficient/unreliable staffing outlook, coupled with low enrollment, puts operational and financial viability of the school in jeopardy

Discussion of Parent-Proposed Strategic Plan

- Board walked through “Ashe' Parent Demands” document submitted to the Board step by step, and agreed with the recommendations submitted by parents

- Board directed Debra to plan for each of the parent demands listed, and come back to the Board at the next special meeting to share how she would be incorporating those recommendations (“demands”) into the remainder of the school year and training/teacher development time
- Ed Jefferson to follow up with lead parent Renee Jones to get a better understanding of the “planning time” bullet
- Marjon Way-Bonkaana to draft a letter to all parents to be sent out on Living Tree (internal communication system for Ashe’ Prep) outlining that the Board has received and reviewed parent recommendations and instructed Dr. Sullivan to incorporate them into school operations and teacher training plan
- Board agreed that safety is the school's top priority, and more training needs to be provided to teachers and staff so that they feel better equipped and can effectively deploy discipline policy to address any behavioral needs and/or accidents/incidents that may arise

#### Motion to table Consideration of Continuation of 6th Grade

2<sup>nd</sup>

Rationale: school leadership actively recruiting short-term and long-term substitute teachers; can sufficiently cover staffing through this week.

Board to revisit consideration of this topic at the end of the week in next special meeting of the Board, at which time leadership will provide an update to i) whether additional staffing has been secured and ii) whether Ashe’ Prep administration can ensure sufficient, high-quality certificated teachers for all grade levels, all day long, all week long

❖ Next Special Board Meeting – to be determined; later this week

Adjourn 7:30pm