



Ashé
Preparatory Academy

Ashé Prep Special Board Meeting – Minutes
October 4, 2019
5 pm to 7 pm
Ashe' Preparatory Academy

This Special Meeting is to

Called to order at 5:02pm

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

Executive Director Report Regarding School Operations and Viability in the 2019-2020 School Year

- a. Regarding Open Roles: Principal, DOO, SpED teacher, 1st Grade lead teacher, 1st grade paraprofessional, 2nd Grade lead teacher, 6th Grade Language Arts teacher, 6th grade math teacher, 6th grade paraprofessional, and PE and Art teacher
- b. Regarding Staffing: we cannot ensure certificated teachers all day every day in school next week, or the week after. Not confident that we can get reliable, certificated teachers in school in the near-term
- c. Regarding Substitutes: have only been able to hire two substitute teachers - Jim Valiere, a former Board member who resigned to help cover our classes and Ms. Germaine (K), a parent of a 6th grader
- d. Regarding Enrollment: As of yesterday, current enrollment was down to approximately 70, though attendance yesterday and today was around 55 students
- e. Regarding Financials: (Bill Kiolbasa presented) model is not financially viable; based on current enrollment, Ashe' Prep is ~\$700K over budget this year, and cumulatively would be ~\$2M over budget by 2021-22

- f. Dr. Sullivan recommended two things for Board consideration:
1. that Ashe' Prep suspend operations for all grade levels for the remainder of the school year, effective Friday, October 11th, because without sufficient teaching staff and leadership, we are unable to fully provide our unique and inclusive academic model to Ashe' Prep children and youth. Furthermore, the financial outlook for the school is not sustainable - and we do not have a path to making it financially viable given low enrollment, and
 2. that Ashé Prep Board of Directors and Dr. Sullivan petition our authorizer, the Washington State Charter School to retain and amend our charter. If the Commission grants Ashé Prep the right to retain and amend our charter
 - i. Dr Sullivan proposed that she be granted a 30-day exploration period during which time she could work to build a plan for how the school could re-open next year in a re-imagined form
 - ii. If the Commission and Board were to support this recommendation, she would lead an effort to work towards re-opening next year, 2020-21

Public Comment

Grandparent volunteer requested the school administration focus on additional behavioral training and deploying discipline policies and procedures

Executive Session

Board Chairman Khavin Debbs called for an Executive Session and stated "Pursuant to RCW 42:30.110(1)(g) of the Open Public Meetings Act, the Board will now move into executive session to "discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency." No action will be taken in executive session. We anticipate the executive session to last 60 minutes. If the Executive Session needs to be extended, we will come back into this room and let you know."

Return to Open Session

Motion (Derrick): To support of Executive Director recommendation to suspend operations for the 2019-2020 School Year, effective October 11th

2nd: (Ed)

Vote: Unanimous

Motion (Khavin): To table discussion of Dr. Sullivan's second recommendation, to petition the Commission to retain and amend the charter; for further discussion at next Board meeting

Board requested that Dr. Sullivan bring forward lessons learned and what would need to change first, before considering whether to support her second recommendation

2nd: (Casey)

Vote: Unanimous

❖ Next Board Meeting – regularly scheduled; October 8th

Adjourn 7pm