



Ashé
Preparatory Academy

Ashé Prep Special Board Meeting – Minutes
September 27, 2019
4 pm to 6 pm
Ashe' Preparatory Academy

This Special Meeting is to consider the performance of a public employee, the viability of the 6th grade level offering, and overall viability of Ashe' Prep, due to teacher absences/resignations.

Called to order at 4pm

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

Others Present: Debra Sullivan, members of the general public, 6th grade teachers, 6th grade parents, 1st grade teacher

Executive Session

At 4:10 Board President 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 review the performance of a public employee. 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."

Ashe' Board Members then adjourned to a separate room next door and remained in Executive Session for the allotted time.

Board members then returned to the room where the public meeting was held and Khavin stated, "No action was taken in the executive session"

Return to Public Portion of the Meeting

Motion (Casey): To suspend 6th Grade due to insufficient staffing, effective Oct. 4th

2nd: (Ed)

Motion then opened for discussion

Board Chair then allowed public comment

- One of the 6th Grade teachers reported not seeing students IEP's in a timely fashion
- Ms. Iris Harden Spoke about her time volunteering at Ashe' Prep. In her view, teachers didn't seem to have enough training, not enough materials and because of these things she pulled her granddaughter out of the school. Despite these things, she still has continued to volunteer and said that changes need to be made to rebuild trust and that teachers need more training
- Board Member Derrick Johnson replied: "Hopefully we can rebuild that trust and you will see that through our actions"
- The 6th grade paraeducator spoke next saying the 6th grade teachers had stood up at a meeting to ask for increased services/support, but school leadership did not respond in timely fashion
- Sam Barns, 1st grade teacher added that he has not received adequate coaching; seeking trauma-informed approaches to apply in his classroom
- Renee' Jones the parent of a 6th Grader talked about her disappointment in hearing that the board was taking action to close the 6th grade. She said her daughter loves the school and that the family had researched many schools before deciding on Ashe'. Expressed that parent community would likely want to help and be able to provide additional support
- Caller on the phone suggested having more community forums / better communication between Administration and parents as many parents were caught off guard by these developments

Motion to table the vote on suspension of 6th grade: (Casey) due to need for more discussion and information gathering

2nd: (Ed)

Vote: unanimous

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

Adjourn 6pm