

Minutes for the Joint Board of Directors of Jefferson Academy
A Colorado Non-profit Corporation
May 16, 2023
General Meeting - following Annual Meeting
Summit Academy & Zoom

Preliminary A., B., C., D., E., F.

Ms. Vartanova called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. The guests were welcomed. Roll call was taken and the following Board members were present: Mr. Ennis, Ms. Lilyblade, Mr. Mathai, Ms. Mills, Mr. Quintana, Ms. Sorice and Ms. Vartanova. The following ex-officio Board members were present: Mr. Matlick, Dr. O'Neill, Ms. Scarato and Ms. Taussig. Ms. Sorice led the guests and the Board of Directors in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Vartanova presented the agenda. Ms. Sorice moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Ennis seconded the motion. The agenda passed unanimously.

During Public comment: Kirsten Subach and Amy (last name?) voiced their concerns about the activities related to Gay Pride Month and the lack of communication to the parents. They also suggested that a process be put in place going forward.

Consent Agenda

A Review & Approve

Ms. Vartanova presented the Consent Agenda. Ms. Sorice moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Ennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

General Agenda

Principal Introductions

Ryan Stadler: JA Secondary

Mr. Stadler mentioned that this is his second time at JA. His first time was back in 1999 as a teacher. His wife, Teresa Stadler is a teacher and his children attend JA. He shared his excitement with his new position.

Brendon Feddema: JA Elementary

Mr. Feddema provided his personal and educational background. Mr. Feddema noted that he is very happy to be back in elementary school and involved in a charter school.

A Informational

1 Principal Presentation and Faculty Introduction

Ms. Scarato introduced Hayley Middaugh. Ms. Middaugh provided a slideshow explaining the different classes that she teaches: writing, theater, leadership and gardening.

Ms. Scarato shared that they are finishing their 10th year with JA. She shared her appreciation for being involved with JA and the program. They have 850 enrolled for next year. Enrollment for the Athletic Academy will begin picking up now that tryouts are finished. They are still looking for part time teachers. Ms. Scarato mentioned that students K-8 took the ITBS test and results were shared with parents. She reviewed the end of year performances and activities.

2 General Executive Director update

Mr. Matlick reported that one of the goals was to have a normal year, as much as possible, and it appears we were successful. Mr. Matlick met with the district today about the charter renewal process. The district is trying to simplify the process and what schools are accountable for. The district is moving the charter renewal deadline from December 1 to October 1. Mr. Matlick noted that we may be able to leave the district for ELL services. The district appears to agree with our position on this issue and this may be possible this year or the following year. This would allow JA to hire our own ESL teacher. Mr. Matlick reported that there is a meeting with the bank this month and explained our bond contract. Mr. Matlick mentioned that there is a plan for working cross-building with all the administrators next year. Mr. Matlick shared the process of generating a club at the secondary.

3 General principal updates (not covered in the consent agenda)

Ms. Taussig shared their end of the year activities: graduation, prom, all-school field trip to ID-RA-HA-JE and student testing. She noted that their enrollment is going well. She noted the homeschool conference in mid June.

Dr. O'Neill provided staffing updates. The elementary school only has one teaching position open and several EA positions. The enrollment is looking okay. Dr. O'Neill shared the end of year activities: a move-up assembly on Monday, seniors walking through in their cap and gown, 6th grade graduation, and field trips.

B Strategic

1 Strategic Plan

a No update

None.

C General Board Governance

1 General

a Board Vacancy per Policy 2.6(i)

Ms. Vartanova shared that there are two vacancies and eight letters of interest. The candidates shared information about themselves and the reason for running for the open position. Board members requested further information and clarification from the candidates.

The Board voted for the candidates by paper. Ms. Vartanova announced the two candidates that won the majority vote: John Nunnally and Tristina Pontiakos.

b SRC Report for Elementary per Policy 2.11

Mr. Ennis reported that they met with Dr. O'Neill and she provided an overview with the elementary staff. It was noted there are issues with hiring EAs.

c Board Self-Evaluation and Matrix

Ms. Vartanova encouraged members, if they haven't already, to update their experience in the matrix.

2 Financials

a Mr. Quintana noted the increase in FTE revenue. Mr. Matlick shared that in the past, we have used the district as a benchmark with salaries. It is not known where the district is at this time.

3 Committees

a Update from committee leads on committee activities

Ms. Lilyblade shared that the SAC committee is looking forward to working and is in need of more members.

D Policy

1 Second Reading of Board Manual

Mr. Ennis reported that the Policy and Governance Committee was not able to meet. Discussion ensued about the purpose of the second reading of the manual. This item will be moved to the June agenda.

E Task-Oriented

1 Approve Minutes from April 25, 2023 meeting

Ms. Vartanova presented the Minutes from April 25, 2023. These were revised. Mr. Quintana moved to approve the Minutes of April 25, 2023 as amended. Ms. Lilyblade seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2 Action Items

These were reviewed and revised.

3 Board communication to parents (Top 5)

It was determined that the following would be included in the communication: acknowledge eight Board candidates, outgoing Board members and administration, new Board members and new administrators, graduations.

F Executive Session

None planned for this meeting

Adjournment

Mr. Ennis moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Ms. Lilyblade seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Cohen, Clerk
Jefferson Academy Board of Directors