

**Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 1st, 2020**

**Northpoint Expeditionary Learning Academy
551 First Street, Prescott, AZ / Room #111**

Responsibilities of the Governing Board

- Supporting the Mission and Vision of Northpoint Academy
- Overseeing the overall performance of Northpoint Academy
- Setting the school's general policies and overall curriculum policies
- Developing the annual budget and financial procedures
- Developing student and staff policy handbooks
- Review and approve curriculum and textbooks, which will meet AZ State Standards o Fundraising
- Approving personnel policies and monitoring their implementation by the principal
- Assuring that the charter schools fulfills its charter contract

Meeting called to order digitally at 5:00 pm on Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rosemary Dixon - RD
Gina Sparks - GS
Zoe Kroner - ZK
Mavis Brauer - MB

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dawn Casey - DC

STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Wagoner - MW
Sharon Felker - SF

STAFF ABSENT:

Kyle Short - KS
Sophia Grubert - SG

1. Call to Order:

RD - Call to order at 5:00 pm

2. Approval of Minutes:

RD - Move to approve minutes from previous meeting

GS - Seconds Motion

Motion passes

3. Informational Reports and Discussion

a. School Report

Melissa Wagoner gave a school report on the following areas:

1. Upcoming Board changes--DC will be leaving the board, KS will retire as staff rep, and SG will retire as student rep. Board needs to find a replacement for DC. KS will be replaced by FH and AG(M) (Fran Haynes 8th Humanities, Morgoth 10-12 math) and we are looking for a student rep.
2. New Staff member KM (Kody Martin) will stay through May 2021. Team members happy.
3. Enrollment Numbers--7-18, 8-23, 9-41, 10-31, 11-28, 12-28: This is a total of 3 students lost since October Board Mtg. Reaffirms that the decision to not add new students before January is a choice to protect teacher fluidity and flow. We will be bringing more students in January.
4. Fiscal Report-The choice to not recruit or even allow students to join late in the term (post September) has resulted in a loss of State Funding of approx. \$10,000 per month. However, the ESG (Enrollment Stability Grant) came in at about \$89,000, which covers that loss and then some. We have been able to keep saving money for the balloon payment in 4 years, but can refinance that payment if we need to, as a matter of fact, that is expected and normal, that we finance the balloon. With savings of \$250,000, we are ok to cover the 'loss' of enrollment dollars. We still have the ESSER (through ADE) Grant in the amount of \$50,000 that runs through December 2021. Wagoner expresses frustration in the new information that keeps coming out on the ESG. We will be clearly tracking each item we buy under these grants-whether we ask for them or not, with the assumption it is all auditable.
5. Health Metrics--AZHD still is recommending hybrid-for everyone. This indicator does not seem to ever recommend anything other than Hybrid. However the numbers are high across the state, and higher in Yavapai County than we have experienced up to this point. Yavapai County is reporting a two week avg. of 26% positivity.

ZD: Confirms that hospitals are basically full already and are not set up to take in many more patients. Explains ventilation v ICU. 95-100% capacity, ½ patients COVID positive. It's never been like this. Elective surgeries outpatient only.

GS: PUSD closed today, online only from here on out. It is the right thing to do.

MW: Comments on the quick transition, and the effect on staff. Had hoped that the numbers would be better, but knows that the metrics will all be red by Dec 4th update. Wants to put Middle School online as of the 7th, and HS by intensive. HS Intensives are mitigated, and HS students and parents have had several chances to choose, or rechoose an online intensive. Only 2 have chosen to move from in person to online voluntarily. Explains the differences in the groupings and activities planned. Also wants to commit to start online in January right now. 5 weeks online, decide in 3rd week about the rest of the quarter.

RD: Assents that we can't wait for direction from the county or state, we will have to make a school decision.

MW: We are offering Bright thinker asynchronous courses for ANYONE who wants to pull out of their currently scheduled course. And will continue to offer this option.

ZK: So you want to close it this week? We should exceed the matrix this week. Didn't we get the message from the state that we don't have to follow the metrics?

RD: Didn't they change the metrics?

MW: Clarifies the change in display , but not cut points or recommendations. Explains some of the Social Emotional wellness issues of kids when they are online. Prefers to keep the kids in person through the 10th of December.

GS: I understand the personal/social emotional issues, but we still need to react to the situation. Some kids may go home to a not ideal situation, but we need to protect the whole. Somebody has to say it is too dangerous. Somebody has to do what's best and safest. I understand the two sides of the issue. PUSD teachers expected to go online; they were not surprised. Everybody saw it coming. Teachers don't want to be in the classroom with kids. Discusses how PUSD put 30 kids in a classroom still. I am for school closure.

RD: I am also for school closure, but with kids and staff to have the notice they need. We will know Thursday, right?

ZD: Yes, but knowing Thursday will still cut them off the next day. Explains the HS Intensives as smaller, cohorted classes, lots of outside activity.

MW: The metrics will not get better. We have had 0 kids bringing it to school, the exposure is from parents and at home. Asks for each member to weigh in.

RD: Wait until Thursday to decide when HS goes online. Kids and parents need consistency and comfort in the transition. I don't know.

ZK: For safety reasons, we need to plan to close. HS Intensives are small groups, lots of outdoor activity. It depends on the teachers. My child is at risk, she takes a risk. I'm exposed every day at work. I change, I clean, but I still live. We all are taking risks. If the teachers are comfortable with it, let them decide. Intensives are different, maybe we can keep them open a few more days. If I were the teachers, I'd be planning how to move my class online. Parents know the risks they are taking.

MW: Explains how varied intensive leaders have been making those plans.

MB: I don't know enough about the specifics of intensives, but this time of year it makes sense to be outside. Cooped up inside is not smart.

MW: Clarifies the outdoor and distancing mitigation through the different intensives.

GS: Questions if Intensives can be changed now.

MW: No, that would be inordinately stressful for staff. These courses take a month of planning at least.

GS: Asks if we can send the offer to opt out to online Intensives.

MW: Teachers designed Intensives in 3 ways-In Person, Hybrid, Online. They also have the option to take Bright Thinker courses.

RD: 99% sure the metrics will be bad on Thursday-We are deciding when to close. Why not close them all on Monday 12/7.

ZK: Can you close everything and still have people opt in?

MW: We can, but I do not believe that people will opt out--I've been offering the online only option since before Thanksgiving. Everyone showed up today. We have two choices: Move everyone Monday OR MS online Monday 12/7, HS online 12/11. We discussed the way to plan and readiness to transition to online with the idea that going online can never be a surprise to us again, since before the intensives were planned.

ZK: If the teachers are comfortable with doing their course in person, they should be allowed to continue. I knew and my student knew what we were signing up for.

GS: I think you should close on Monday, but if you decide not to, as long as people know their options to be online.

MW: My preference is go online 12/7 with MS and make individual choices by intensive, but likely by the 14th, possibly by the 11th. I love that you guys are ok with individual courses.

RD: Send a note to families to explain our choices.

GS: Concerned about leaving the choice to the parents. Somebody needs to say STOP. I am online for everyone on Monday.

RD: I don't think that it is not leading to making individual choices by intensives. We should give the options, with the risk being clear. Can they change Intensives?

ZK: We did get information about 10 days ago with the clear choice of changing Intensives. Melissa offered online intensives. Families had that choice and teachers also had the option of how to design their course.

GS: Is there a possibility of a policy change to let students miss more than 2 days?

MW: I'm not willing to change it up on teachers now--it invalidates the academic strength of the course.

GS: Can we have a policy like last spring where we try not to harm students?

MW: DO NO HARM did excessive harm to students and educators. It developed patterns of disengagement that we are still resetting. Explains the intensive plans for the final week. Reiterates the small school advantage.

RD: I think Gina's right and Zoe is right. There is not an easy answer. Were the metrics this mad when the families made their choice?

ZK: Melissa's email did make it clear that the metrics would continue to get worse. At least, to me, it was pretty clear. We are at a 25% positivity rate right now. Could have shut it down 2 weeks ago.

GS: Your last email was pretty clear. What signal do you want to send? Maybe we can cause the change? Asks Melissa to consider what happens if she stays open.

ZK: If this weren't intensives, I would have just said go online. Intensives are very rarely just sitting and listening to a lecture. They move about. It's a small group of up to 15 kids that are the same kids that will be together for the next week. We are just talking about adding a few days. These are the most mitigated situation that a class could have. Very small groups, very mitigated.

MW: So we have varied opinions on the Board, but we all agree that MS is online starting Dec 7, and HS intensives are course by course decisions, but no longer in person by the 11th. Small group opt in activities can still happen in the final week. I will offer the opt out option for an online course again to families to pick through 12/10.

GS: Can you send an email to parents that opting online is still possible?

MW: Absolutely. As soon as we finish this meeting.

RD: That is probably the best we can come up with.

GS: It's serious stuff. These are very hard decisions.

MW: Discusses the rapid tests she picked up from the county

ZK: Confirms the 50% reliability of rapid tests.

GS: How many cases do you have at school?

MW: Explains the parents have tested positive, but we have no student attending classes (or have attended classes) who has tested positive. Parents are being cautious about bringing anything into the school.

RD: Tells a Basis related story about kids getting infected. Even with plastic all around them. The kids in the front row didn't get sick but all their parents did. I can't tell you what's right and I'm sorry.

MW: Reiterates the opt out Bright Thinker option.

GS: I think that an email that advertises that-clearly-is a good idea.

MW: Will do.

MB: I really appreciate the fact that you are so tuned in to what is going on at school, and still able to be flexible.

Meeting adjourned 6:28

4. NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 5th, 2021 - 5:00 PM ZOOM

5. ADJOURNMENT