



THE ACCELERATED SCHOOLS

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Date and Time

Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 10:00 AM **(Approved Minutes)**

Location

4000 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90037 (MPR)

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Members Present: L. Rabinowitz, B. Yost, E. Weiss, and P. Morrison (arrived at 11:20 am)

Board Members Absent: L. Picus

Administrative Team Present: G. Lee-Chang, L. Lugo, S. Dickinson, C. Foley, K. Sheehan, D. Kukta, R. French, T. Nizetich, T. Crowther, F. Reading, K. Figueroa, B. James, D. Tran, A. Zartner, F. Jackson, L. Hilarides, A. Blackwell, D. Gonzalez, K. Hlaudy, S. Godfrey-Canada, O. Mojarro, and C. Reyes.

Guest Speakers: None.

Guest Present: J. Ruley, O. Yee, and P. Reyes,

AGENDA

Meeting Called to Order: President Rabinowitz called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by E. Weiss

Approval of Board Meeting Agenda October 25, 2023, Motioned: LR/EW **Approved:** Unanimously 3/0

Regular Board Minutes: September 20, 2023, Motioned: LP/LR **Approved:** Unanimously 3/0

PUBLIC COMMENTS on NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments

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CEO'S PRESENTATION AND REPORT

No Public comments

- a. Congratulations to WAHS for being recognized on AP School Honor Roll-Bronze Status by the College Board. The CEO thanked WAHS school leaders, faculty, and staff for collectively working together to support our students.
- b. Director of Operations K. Sheehan provided a handout summarizing a timeline of events for the two adjacent Woodlawn Lots which are owned by TAS.

The timeline is from initial discussions in November of 2017 through present. It details phases of development, including planning, renderings, strategy, schedule, and budget for Board consideration. Input was gathered from Gafcon Consulting, CY Architects, Jill Jones Loeb & Loeb Senior Council Real Estate, KYA, and our LAUSD Facilities Development Manager.

Ms. Sheehan recommended a Facilities Task Force be formed to garner input from multiple layers. Potential Task Force Members were discussed.

- a. TAS bring backs:
 - i. Updated Cost budget.
 - ii. Update rendering.
 - iii. Decision on what the building will be.
- b. Board level bring backs/decisions pending are:
 - i. Name of Board liaison for facilities TAS force.
 - ii. Direction regarding the funding of the project.

During this discussion, it was clarified TAS wants to start the Facilities Task Force first to further develop initial plans prior to bringing on an LAUSD representative. However, it is our intent to include LAUSD once we have a definitive direction.

- c. TAS Tutoring Program:
 - a. This presentation was in response to a request from board members for more information.
 - b. Director of Elementary Education, F. Reading, and Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, T. Crowther presented an overview of current tutoring programs as follows:
 - i. We had two study sessions with Dr. Larry Picus on his funding model and tutoring model. We are in the process of alignment of staffing and resources.
 - ii. Review our organizational goals.

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- iii. Review of information on who is providing tutoring.
 - 1. Certificated, contracted, and non-certificated tutors.
- iv. When does tutoring occur?
 - 1. During the day, after school, and 30 additional days of interventions
 - 2. We are working on aligning closer to Dr. Picus' tutoring model with more certificated tutors during the day.
 - a. L. Rabinowitz: The Board is willing to fund more for certificated tutors.
 - b. B. Yost: How are we getting students to show up and be engaged?
 - c. E. Weiss: Excited with progress, it is impressive.
- v. What curriculum are we using?
 - 1. Review of Elementary, Middle, and High School curriculum standards based and science of reading (ELA and Math). Orton- Gillingham and Illustrative Math.
- vi. How many students are we serving in ELA?
 - 1. The number of students receiving services are:
 - a. ACES - 324 students
 - b. TAS - 623 students
 - c. WAHS - 305 students
 - o L. Rabinowitz: What is the average tutoring per week? Hours?
 - 2. Tutoring is provided through self-directed learning periods and small groups during the day.
 - 3. The second layer of tutoring is after school.
- vii. How many students are we seeing in Math?
 - a. The number or student receiving services are:
 - i. ACES – 322 students
 - ii. TAS – 471 students
 - iii. WAHS – 302 students
 - d. We are tracking the performance of students being tutored to identify growth, additional supports, etc.
 - e. We will train them in a process that is effective.
 - 1. L. Rabinowitz: Who is the point person for tutoring?
F. Reading and T. Crowther
 - 2. Principals, Assistant Principals, Coordinators, and a team of Curriculum specialists provide support and additional quality control at school sites and for after-school programs.

TAS Bring back: Recommendations for how we can get certificated teachers to join tutoring program.

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BOARD PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

No public comments

1. Board President's comments: The Board President shared that it had come to his attention that a valuable TAS member has been affected by in her words "anti-blackness" by students.

The Board President shared that TAS was founded on DEI principles, and we have two longstanding examples of DEI in our Bylaws and Personnel Handbook with strong non-discriminatory language.

As a result of the April 1992 Los Angeles Riots the decision was made to donate, by him and his business partner, what is now the TAS site to provide an opportunity to underserved children of the community. Anti-racism is in our identity from the beginning and a new self-standing Diversity, Equity & Inclusion statement was unanimously approved by the board. The Board President requested the CEO establish a hotline (phone number and extension) to anonymously report any racist incidents. Another idea was to start an employee suggestion hotline to share ideas.

2. Board Resolution Affirming Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:
PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were seven public comments all in favor of approving the DEI statement discussing board diversity, and affirming our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and inclusion.

L. Rabinowitz shared that he's experienced discrimination and that there were places he couldn't go because he is Jewish and that he understands. Also, we have a parent that has expressed interest in being part of the Board. The Board examines skill sets to serve on the board.

E. Weiss shared that she was very moved by staff comments and that DEI is embedded into her daily work. She is passionate about this aspect of her job. She appreciated the detailed feedback and honesty from the staff. She tries to see through the eyes of others as much as possible that the DEI statement is important and that diversifying the Board gives a lot of space to be proactive and actionable in DEI, working with it and so it is not just philosophical. Intentional actions support equity. I came to this Board through collaborative work and would like to do this work with us.

Board bring backs and comments:

- Commitment to continue this work.
- TAS to create a DEI task force to include a Board member or Board Liaison. Ms. Yost and Ms. Weiss volunteered.

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- Follow up with actionable steps.
- Commitment, underscored by Mr. Morrison, to diversify the board.

Motion to approve Board Resolution Affirming Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. **Motion:** ER/BY
Approved: 4/0 Unanimously

3. Possible Approval of Board President's Appointee to Nominating Committee (Action Item).

Bylaws say three (3) Trustees will serve on the Nominating Committee. A motion to approve Peter Morrison to the Nominating Committee was presented. **Motion:** EW/BY **Approved:** 3/0 Unanimously approved. **P. Morrison abstained as he was the nominee.**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION

This item was moved for consideration at this time of the agenda.

L. Rabinowitz presented a candidate to the Board. There was a discussion on approving this candidate, keeping in mind the concerns shared in the above-mentioned comments about board diversity.

P. Morrison shared that given what the community has said, he does not want to elect a member that the community feels will not represent TAS diversity. We want the community to know that we hear you but at the same time, this candidate comes with a lot of potential to bring outside funding to TAS.

L. Rabinowitz shared that the Board does feel that this person is highly qualified and will provide help and support to the school. We do not want to lose this person.

B. Yost suggested speaking to the candidate about our DEI conversation and presenting all the nominees at the next meeting together so school leaders can see all of the diverse nominees together.

L. Rabinowitz said he is not sure why we would wait to vote for this person.

E. Weiss said she is committed to expansion and diversification and asked if this candidate fits into this.

L. Rabinowitz said one thing has nothing to do with the other and we are currently considering several other candidates including a parent candidate.

L. Rabinowitz and P. Morrison asked staff to help with this decision. If this candidate can help our school and you have our commitment to diversify the Board going forward now that he is part of the Nominating Committee, can we proceed with this vote without it being perceived unfavorably? After a discussion the consensus of the staff was to affirm Ms. Berz.

Staff asked:

- Can this nominee be on the Foundation instead? L. Rabinowitz answered that this person has expressed a desire to be on the school board.
- Are there other entryways for her to assist the school financially that do not involve her having a seat on the Board?

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P. Morrison shared that at least nine people can sit on the Board and even if we nominate this person now, we have 3 additional spots. J. Ruley clarified that we can nominate a teacher to the Board.

Action Item: Election of a Trustee to fill a vacancy for a term of one year commencing December 1, 2023, through the 2024 Annual Election: **Motion:** EW/BY **Approved:** 4/0 Unanimously approved.

Lindsay Berz, CFA, will be present at the next Annual and Regular Board meeting and will serve a one-year term as a Board member.

The Board expressed commitment to continue the search to bring on members who represent the community.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, AND ACTION ITEMS

No Public Comments

1. Action Item – The Board will consider approving the TAS Consolidated Financial Reports through September 2023-24 for TAS/ACES/WAHS. The Board also reviewed information on the current estimated LCFF increases for 2024-25 through 2026-27.

Motioned: EW/BY **Approved:** Unanimously 4/0

PUBLIC HEARING TO SUNSHINE AND APPROVE SEIU LOCAL 99'S INITIAL PROPOSAL TO TAS FOR SUCCESSOR AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

No public comments

The Accelerated Schools received the Sunshine Proposal submitted by the SEIU Local 99 dated October 4, 2023. Receipt of the proposal moves the bargaining process forward between the SEIU Local 99 and The Accelerated Schools

PUBLIC HEARING TO SUNSHINE AND APPROVE UTLA'S PROPOSAL TO TAS FOR SUCCESSOR AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

No public comments

The Accelerated Schools received the Sunshine Proposal submitted by UTLA dated October 13, 2023. Receipt of the proposal moves the bargaining process forward between the UTLA and The Accelerated Schools.

PUBLIC HEARING TO SUNSHINE AND APPROVE TAS' INITIAL PROPOSAL TO SEIU LOCAL 99 FOR SUCCESSOR AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

No public comments

As part of the collective bargaining process, The Accelerated Schools must sunshine its initial proposal to commence negotiations toward an agreement.

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Public Hearing to Sunshine and Approve TAS' Initial Proposal to UTLA for Successor Agreement for Negotiations

No public comments

As part of the collective bargaining process, The Accelerated Schools must sunshine its initial proposal to commence negotiations toward an agreement.

CONSENT ITEMS for BOARD APPROVAL

No public comments.

1. Revised 2023-2024 Academic Calendar due to Tropical Storm Hurricane Hilary School Closure (ACES, TAS, WAHS)
2. 2022-2023 Unaudited Actuals Reports - Resubmitted for TAS/ACES/WAHS
3. HeyTutor Amendment for ACES Tutoring Services
4. Approval of Personnel Policy Handbook 2023-24_Rev. October 2023
5. February 23, 2023, Board Minutes - Amendment for Clarification

Motion: LR/EW **Approved:** Unanimously 4/0

B. Yost left at 12:19 pm

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION AT 12:24 PM

1. Conference with Labor Negotiators pursuant to Government Code §54954.5 for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 99
2. Conference with Labor Negotiators pursuant to Government Code §54954.5 for United Teachers Los Angeles.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION AT 1:25 PM

No action was taken during the closed session.

ADJOURN AT 1:36 PM

Motion: EW/LR **Approved** 2/0

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