

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**Achievement Charter Academy**  
**Minutes of Tuesday August 10, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by President Ray Strain at 4:30 pm. Present were:

Ray Strain

Nancy Herrick

Jason Smith

Ryan Denny

Virtual: Kira Royal, Barbara Marchioni

Not present: Cindy Pierce

Director of Education: Leaja Horne

Guests online : Jackson, Bigas, Antrilli, Clunn, Jeffries

The mission statement was read by Jason Smith and the virtual guests were welcomed. Ray Strain established the quorum present and the agenda was approved with Barbara moving and Jason 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Public Comment:** Ray Strain opened the session to the online parents for public comments. He informed them of our responsibilities to serve the public with safety and security as our primary objectives for the educational functions of the school. The subject of whether or not the school will require masks this year is on the table. Currently, public school units have a choice, and we would like parent comments as to concerns, or wishes in this regard.

Mr. Jackson was opposed to masking his children and he stated that they had not worn masks all summer and the % of infection at this time seems to be slim. He mentioned the lack of evidence to support the use of masks for children and the low number of serious covid infections for this population.

Mr. Bigas spoke of the need for safety of all students and staff. He mentioned that he had noticed the clarity of communication was negatively affected by wearing masks and is in favor of parent choice.

Mrs. Antrilli commented on safety as the prime focus for staff and students and was in favor of masks. She mentioned social distancing and wanted clarity about what other measures would be in place if masks were made optional.

**ACTION: The board moved and approved to have masks optional for all students and staff.** The decision for each student will be left up to the individual families. (Ryan Denny moved and Nancy Herrick 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved.)

**The Directors Report** was presented by Leaja Horne. The increase of 22 students is the goal for the 2021-22 school year as the charter implies. The total enrollment capacity is 184. Currently, we do not

have a full enrollment in all classes, and would like to have a healthier wait list. ACA still needs student enrollment and is seeking another teacher and guidance counselor. Several new staff have been issued contracts and need to be approved by the board for the 2021-22 school year.

The DOE also reported that the budget that was approved is still within our limits of expenses at this time.

**ACTION:** Recommendations for new contract approvals. Nancy Herrick moved approval, Jason Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved.

Discussion on possibilities were begun and the concern with rising real estate prices was acknowledged. One suggestion was that we find property that we could obtain a “right to purchase” at the end of four or five years, so that we could budget for this and for the expanding facilities. That would provide some safety net on the rising costs and availability of the property when we need to acquire it in the future.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Submitted notes: Nancy Herrick, Vice President