



Mission: To rally independent community support for the successful education of all Alamance County children.

Minutes of the:
Alamance Citizens for Education (ACE)
Board of Directors' Meeting
Graham Public Library
Graham, NC

Thursday, August 10, 2006

Directors Present:

Lane Anderson
Angela Thompson-Clark
Gerald Dillashaw
Becky Loy

Jeff Andrews
Kate Crawford
Allison Gant
Ed Woodall

LaRosa Pinnix-Bailey
Chris Davis

Director Proxies:

Terry Farmer
Tina Manning
Sylvester Lewis

Tony Foriest
Terry McNeill

Chad Laws
Nancy Whitfield

Executive Director:

Mary Erwin

Visitor:

Mary Ruth, Education Coordinator, Alamance County Arts Council

The **Board of Directors meeting** of the Alamance Citizens for Education (ACE) was called to order at 12:08 p.m. by President Allison Gant. Chris Davis provided the invocation.

Minutes: An amendment to the minutes of the July Directors meeting was proposed, confirming that \$50 would be provided to each teacher new to the teaching profession in the ABSS. A motion to accept the minutes of the July Directors' meeting was made by Allison Gant and seconded by Kate Crawford. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Becky Loy distributed and discussed the report, which reflected cash assets of \$76,866.25 currently in the bank. Chris Davis moved that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Jeff Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Special Report: Alamance County Arts Council: Mary Ruth, Education Coordinator, discussed the contributions of the Arts Council's After-School Arts Program. The program objective is to cultivate each child's personal need to learn through an emphasis on the artistic process, not the finished art product. Program goals include the promotion of self-confidence, teamwork, compassion and spontaneity. Several schools in the ABSS are served by the after-school program, many serving at-risk students.

Organizational Development: Mary Erwin read the recent resignation notice from Vice President Kerry Richmond. A motion to accept the resignation was made by Jeff Andrews and seconded by Gerald Dillashaw. The motion passed.

Allison Gant advised that Glen Raven Mills is prepared to provide up to \$25,000 in funding to support the first year's salary of a Tutoring & Mentoring Coordinator through ACE. She further stated that this new position should be separate from the Executive Director's position, and would like to the Board to consider moving Mary Erwin to a full-time Executive Director position.

Mary Erwin discussed a public awareness opportunity for ACE through the distribution of a bilingual "General Homework Tips for Parents" handout.

Program of Work: Allison Gant advised the Program of Work committee met on August 8. Work continues to progress on the upcoming Education Summit scheduled for Tuesday, September 12. Allison also announced Glen Raven Mills has volunteered to print invitations through their print shop. Invitations are slated to be sent to members of the following groups:

- Faith community
- Non-profits
- VOICE
- Chamber of Commerce Educational Council
- Chamber of Commerce annual retreat participants
- Elected officials
- Closing the GAP committee
- ABSS Principals
- ABSS Superintendent
- ABSS Board of Education
- ACE Board of Trustees / Board of Directors

Allison Gant opened the floor for additional invitees, and also asked members of the Board of Directors to help facilitate round table discussions at the Summit.

Mary Erwin advised a Tutoring & Mentoring subcommittee meeting was scheduled for August 22, 12:00 noon, at the ACE office. Over 20 participants are expected at this initial meeting, including representation from Elon University, Alamance Community College, Alamance Mental Health and the Hayden-Harmon Foundation. Going forward, this will be a regular scheduled meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Mary Erwin reminded the Board that the “Educational Minute” at middle school and high school athletic events begins with the opening of football season the week of August 14. Radio public service announcements may also be taped for broadcast.

Allison Gant confirmed that Gerald Dillashaw will continue to oversee the ACE mini-grant program, with an ambition to increase the mini-grants from \$500 to \$1,000 per school.

Resource Sustainability / Fundraising: Kate Crawford reiterated that Allison Gant and Mary Erwin had a successful visit with Glen Raven Mills on August 1st as the company agreed to fund \$25,000 toward a Tutoring & Mentoring Coordinator position. Kate and Mary also had a successful meeting with John Currin at Alamance Regional Medical Center, and expect the hospital to provide ACE generous support. Kate is in the process of working on several grant requests, including Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Lowes and CitiCorp. During open discussion, other corporate grant suggestions included Honda, Target, Walmart, Verizon and Dell.

Executive Director’s Report: Mary Erwin thanked everyone for their kind wishes during her husband’s kidney surgery and recovery.

Mary provided the following summary of events:

- Since July, she has met with Rotary clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, Glen Raven Mills and ARMC
- Mary and Allison Gant were at the Board of Education meeting when Dr. Randy Bridges was announced as the new superintendent
- ACE had a table at the Success by Six School Readiness Fair, where over 60 attendees picked up information (20% were Latino)
- ACE will make a presentation at New Teacher Orientation for ABSS on August 15th and tell teachers about their \$50.00 gifts
- Mary is scheduled to speak at the Graham Rotary on September 17th
- Mary will attend the New Schools’ Project retreat on September 24th
- Representatives from LabCorp will present their \$25,000 donation to ACE at the September 21st Board of Directors meeting, at the new Amtrak depot in Burlington
- The joint Trustees' and Directors' board meeting on October 19th will also be held at the Amtrak depot

Old Business: Chris Davis made a motion to increase the amount of money allocated to give to new and lateral entry teachers to \$6,000 to make the individual amounts \$50 each (120 teachers). The amount previously allocated at the July meeting was \$4,000. LaRosa Pinnix-Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business: Mary Erwin asked for the Board to consider ACE joining the Public Education Network (PEN), noting that this would increase our funding opportunities by giving us national credibility and making ACE member of the North Carolina coalition. Jeff Andrews, as chair of the Organizational Committee, made a motion for ACE to become a member of PEN. Angela Thompson-Clark seconded. The motion passed. This will cost ACE \$1,000 to join, with annual fees based on our yearly budget.

Allison Gant suggested that we also join DonorsChoose, a non-profit group that connects teachers and schools with individuals who provide funding. Mary Erwin agreed to research this opportunity.

Program of Work and Organizational Development committees will meet together next month on Wednesday, September 13th, the day after the Summit, at Alamance Community College.

With no other business raised, the Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Woodall
Secretary

Meeting Reminders:

Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, September 21, 12:00 noon – new Amtrak depot, Burlington (regular meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of every month)

Program of Work Committee: Wednesday, September 13th, ACC (meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the ACE office, 719 Hermitage Road)

Resource Sustainability Committee: Wednesday, September 20th, 12:00 noon (meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the ACE office)

Organizational Development Committee: Wednesday, September 13th, ACC (meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at ACC)

Joint Board of Trustees / Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, October 19th, 12:00 noon, new Amtrak depot, Burlington