



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
Amtrak Station
Burlington, NC

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Directors Present:

Joe Barbour

Chris Davis

Sylvester Lewis

Terry McNeill

Angela Thompson-Clark

Allison Gant

Becky Loy

Ed Woodall

Kate Crawford

Chad Laws

Tina Manning

Non-voting Ex Officio Member:

Dr. Randy Bridges

Director Proxies:

Michelle Ammann

LaRosa Pinnix-Bailey

Tutoring & Mentoring Coordinator:

Janice Stone

Executive Director:

Mary Erwin

The **Board of Directors meeting** of the Alamance Citizens for Education (ACE) was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by President Allison Gant. Sylvester Lewis provided the invocation.

Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the January Board of Directors meeting was made by Janice Stone and seconded by Tina Manning. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Becky Loy distributed and discussed Profit & Loss Statements for the complete 2006 fiscal year (January through December 2006) and Year-to-date 2007.

Program of Work Committee: Mary Erwin advised the Board that ACE has received feedback on the parental-involvement Mini-Grants from 31 of the 33 ABSS recipient schools. Overall, the feedback was very positive, with most schools very appreciative of the grant money.

Mary also provided data on the programs provided through the Mini-Grants:

- 2,115 parents attended / participated
- 2,802 students attended or were impacted
- 381 volunteers (primarily school staff) also attended

Additionally, 27 participating schools provided answers to a survey of the overall increase in parental involvement resulting from the programs, with varying results on a 5-point scale:

| Rating | # of responses |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 5: Significant | 2 |
| 4: | 8 |
| 3: Somewhat | 14 |
| 2: | 2 |
| 1: None at all | 1 |

Mary also advised that all 2007 Mini-Grant applications have been processed, with one application being re-written.

Mary reported that 15 individuals attended the Gang Awareness forum Tuesday night, February 13th. WFMY News 2 provided coverage of the event on the 11:00 news. An Internet Safety forum is scheduled for tonight at Eastern Alamance High School. Additional Gang Awareness forums are being planned for March at Cummings High School, with one forum to be presented in Spanish.

Mary discussed the potential of ACE providing financial assistance to help expand The Eight Great Healthy Habits nutrition and exercise program to the elementary schools, a joint venture between the Alamance-Burlington School System and Alamance Regional Medical Center. Joe Barbour made a motion for ACE to contribute \$1,000 to the program, seconded by Sylvester Lewis. The motion passed.

Allison Gant advised that ACE was continuing to explore Robyn Hadley’s “Think College” program.

Allison also advised that ACE is applying for a \$5,000 science and math focused grant from Duke Power. Potentially, these funds could be applied toward a mini-grant program to promote science in elementary grades.

Janice Stone, Tutoring & Mentoring Coordinator, reported on recent and pending activities, including:

- Provided a Tutoring & Mentoring overview to faculty & staff at Turrentine Middle School, January 29th
- The revised Tutoring & Mentoring handbook has been delivered. Sir Speedy provided a discount in publishing the handbook.
- First Reformed United Church of Christ may host a future training session with up to 15 volunteers ready to participate
- Attended 8th grade Career Fair in Mebane
- Continuing to distribute flyers throughout the county
- Upcoming Tutoring & Mentoring training sessions are scheduled for February 19th (6:00 – 7:00 p.m.) and February 26th (12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.), both at the ACE office
- Holy Comforter Episcopal Church has expressed an interest in adopting a school
- Will be interviewed for the Busta Brown radio show on 97.1 WQMG-FM, February 20th at 2:45 p.m.
- Meeting with the Closing the Achievement Gap Committee to coordinate a presentation on March 27th

Remarks: Dr. Randy Bridges, Superintendent, ABSS: Dr. Bridges provided updates on several projects and changes within the ABSS, including:

- Reported the realignment process for the new elementary school at Macintosh is nearing completion, and provided insight on how computer-generated data, including school capacity and transportation distance, drive the process. Anticipated first-year enrollment at the new school will be 450 – 480 students.

- Announced new principals at several schools. For the 2007-08 school year, 18 – 21 principals will be new to their positions.
- Distributed copies of the new ABSS 2007 Information Guide to the ACE Board

Organizational Development Committee: Chris Davis re-introduced, and led the Board in reciting, the ACE Mission, Vision and Motto:

- **Mission:** To rally independent community support for the successful education of all Alamance County children
- **Vision:** Alamance County's citizens support and are proud of our children and public school system
- **Motto:** "Educating Everyone Takes Everyone"

On behalf of the Committee, Chris moved that the Board accept the resignation of Brad Smith from the Board of Trustees by acclamation. All Board members voted in favor to accept the resignation.

Chris also made a motion for the Board to accept the resignation of Tony Foriest from the Board of Directors by acclamation. All Board members voted in favor to accept the resignation.

Chris suggested a one and a half day ACE planning retreat, with the primary focus on:

- Program of Work: prepare a solid outline for the next one to three years
- Resource & Sustainability: cultivate strategies to secure resources that cover both short and long-term planning needs

Chris reported that the Hayden-Harman Foundation will provide ACE \$10,000 annually to expand the Tutoring & Mentoring Coordinator position to a full-time role. On behalf of the Organizational Development Committee, Chris made a motion to increase Janice Stone's annual salary from \$24,000 to \$34,000 in conjunction with the move to full-time employment. This also requires a change in the annual budget to allocate an additional \$4,000 for employee benefits. All Board members voted in favor of implementing these changes.

Resource Sustainability / Fundraising Committee: No report

Executive Director's Report: Mary Erwin provided a recap of her recent and upcoming activities and community involvement, including:

- Met with professor Michele Kleckner's communications class at Elon University on February 8th. This was a result of the Community Partnership Grant with Elon, which sets aside \$1,000 to improve ACE's communications capabilities. The class will design ACE's annual report, a new brochure and redesign the ACE website, all of which will be presented on May 10th from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. All Directors and Trustees are encouraged to attend.
- ACE applied for a Wal-Mart grant in March 2006 to support the Celebration of Minority Academic Achievement sponsored by GAP on May 19th. We accepted the grant with Patrick Harman on January 26th. The grant went directly to the Closing the Gap fund. We have applied for another grant for this year.
- Continuing to compile information for our annual report, which will be completed soon
- Applying to attend the Blue Cross Blue Shield Healthy Communities Conference in March. Only 50 organizations are invited to attend this free, two-day conference for non-profits.
- Would like to attend the Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Conference in Greensboro, March 26 – 28th if funds and time are available. Alternatively, a Board member could attend to represent ACE.
- Asked to serve on the Steering Committee for the NC PEN Conference to be held in May

New Business: Chris Davis advised the Board that the Elon Academy is proceeding with their efforts to obtain \$300,000 in annual funding to support 70 – 75 ABSS students in their new program. Chris suggested we initiate a dialogue with Elon University and the Alamance County Area Chamber of Commerce to ensure the varied educational fund-raising efforts do not have an adverse effect on the access and availability of community financial resources. Potentially, ACE could become recognized as a United Way-type, umbrella foundation for multiple academic initiatives in Alamance County.

Mary Erwin reminded the Board that space for our current ACE office on Hermitage Road is guaranteed through June, but would likely be unavailable beyond that. Mary opened the floor for suggestions of potential future office space.

With no other business raised, the Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Woodall
Secretary

Meeting Reminders:

Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, March 15th, 12:00 noon – new Amtrak depot, Burlington (regular Board meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of every month)

Program of Work Committee: Tuesday, March 13th, 12:30 p.m. (meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the ACE office, 719 Hermitage Road)

Resource Sustainability Committee: Wednesday, March 21st, 12:00 noon (meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the ACE office)

Organizational Development Committee: Wednesday, March 14th, ACC, 12:15 p.m. (meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at ACC)

Tutoring and Mentoring (needs chair): Tuesday, February 27th, 12:00 noon (meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the ACE office)

Joint Board of Trustees / Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, April 19th, 2007