



Alamance Citizens for Education

Mission: To promote and coordinate community involvement for the support, enrichment and success of public education in Alamance County

Approved minutes of the:  
**Alamance Citizens for Education (ACE)**  
**Board of Directors' & Trustees' Joint Meeting**  
Ebenezer United Church of Christ  
734 Apple Street  
Burlington, NC 27215

Thursday, September 15, 2005

**Directors:**

Chris Davis  
Tony Foriest  
Jeff Ellington  
Allison Gant  
LaRosa Pinnix-Bailey

Tom Manning—ex officio  
Barbara Massey  
Terry Farmer  
Mary Erwin  
Terry McNeill

Larry Sharpe – ex officio  
Becky Loy  
Chad Laws  
Tom Lambeth  
Angela Thompson-Clark

**Trustees:**

Dr. Anna Bass  
Rev. Larry Covington  
Dave Manor  
Rev. Ron Shive

Paul Cobb  
Eddie Gant, Jr.  
Jan-Erik Nordh  
Haywood Simpson

Jim Copland  
Jack Lindley  
Fairfax Reynolds  
Dan Danieley

A combined meeting of the Alamance Citizens for Education (ACE) Board of Directors and Trustees was called to order at 11:42 AM by President Chris Davis. Rev. Larry Covington provided an invocation and welcome. A motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting was made by Allison Gant and seconded by Terry Farmer. The minutes were approved.

A treasury report was distributed by Becky Loy. A written financial statement was distributed to the membership. As of September 15, 2005, a total of \$ 32,239.26 is on deposit for the organization. The report was accepted without questions.

Under **Old Business**, reports were given by the three standing committees:

**Organizational Development** – Terry McNeill & Terry Farmer, co-chairs

Terry McNeill addressed an upcoming bond referendum involving Alamance Community College and the need for support of it from the community. The \$7.5 million bond will face the voters on November 8, 2005. Terry Farmer summarized previous meetings and interviews by the committee for a part time executive director for ACE. Seven responses from advertising yielded interviews granted to four potentially qualified candidates, with three being given second interviews. The committee unanimously recommended Mary Erwin for the position and Farmer motioned for her approval from the board. The motion was unanimously approved. Mary will begin October 24.

**Program of Work** – Allison Gant, chair

The committee met on Wednesday, September 14, 2005 at the United Way Building. Allison reported that parental involvement is the corner stone for the committee's work. Short term goals will center on grants to help schools cover the administrative cost of getting parents and communities involved and supporting the effort of providing community forums involving the county. It was recommended that as many as two to three community forums may be needed during the year to help with the parental communication process. Also, there was a suggestion that the group look at childhood obesity as a future project for consideration.

Several sub-committees of Program of Work were set up, including:

**Grant Development** – charged with developing the rules, application process and accountability guidelines needed for grant distribution.

**Community Forum** – charged with setting the agenda for forums, securing sites, insuring guest speakers and program information, and following up on public invitations and other requirements for the forums.

A focus group presentation is tentatively planned for October 18, 2005. The purpose is to give feedback on the information gathered during previous sessions to the original focus groups and original ACE organizational task force members. Further details will be distributed later.

The next Program of Work Committee meeting will be Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 12:30 PM in the United Way Building. All director and trustee members are invited to attend these meetings and are encouraged to be involved with the sub-committees as well.

**Resource Sustainability** – Jeff Ellington, chair

The committee met at Village Grill on Tuesday, September 16, 2005 for lunch. Jeff Ellington reported that the group focus was two fold, placing emphasis on preparation of a kick off event that could involve the entire community and second, focusing on the need for a fund raising campaign that would begin with ACE officers.

Barbara Massey and Allison Gant are heading a kick off effort destined for Sunday, either April 2, April 23 or April 30, 2006, that will be a celebration of education in Alamance County and will introduce ACE to the community. The fund raising campaign is being co-chaired by Mary Erwin and Jeff, and is charged with raising the financing needed for ACE to operate.

Ellington read a letter that was addressed to trustees and directors, requesting their financial support (attached).

The next overall committee meeting will be Monday, September 26, 2005, at Village of Brookwood at 7:30 AM. All directors and trustees are invited to attend the Resource Sustainability meetings and are encouraged to be involved with the sub-committees as well.

**Additional Old Business**

Allison Gant reminded everyone present to leave \$7.00 to pay for the cost of lunch.

Chairman Davis reported on progress of the web site for ACE with Patrick Harman. The site can be accessed at [www.AlamanceforEducation.org](http://www.AlamanceforEducation.org) but is listed as "under construction" at this point. Additional details will be forthcoming.

An office for ACE has been obtained by an in-kind donation from the United Way of Alamance County. The location of the office is 719 Hermitage Road in Burlington (the ACE mailing

address remains P.O. Box 1037 in Graham). The donation includes the use of a fax, telephone and a computer with internet access. This is a one room office for ACE but the building itself also has a meeting space.

A request had been expressed to Chairman Davis that minutes from directors' meetings be distributed to trustees as well. Rev. Farmer moved that minutes noted as "not yet approved" be allowed to be distributed to trustees when distributed to board members. The reason for the "not yet approved" notation is because the minutes are not formally approved until the next Board of Directors meeting one month later. The motion was seconded by Angela Thompson-Clark. The motion passed.

### **New Business**

Chairman Davis passed out an updated list of trustees and directors. Baseball hats and visors were shown by Davis as a marketing tool and made available to officers desiring them. The hats are made available as a donation without using any ACE funds.

Pledge cards were distributed to all members present. Those willing were asked to fill out the cards to include financial pledges to ACE. Trustee Chairman Paul Cobb and Jim Copland requested additional information that may help trustees better understand the goals and the vision of ACE. They felt this should come before the push for individual pledges. Chairman Davis summarized the work already done in previous directors' meetings, including an overview of the by-laws and mission statement of ACE, and outlined projects already mentioned in director Ellington's letter. Others spoke up on the need for specifics relative to the need for raising money. Some felt a need to specify specific goals. Setting up a financial budget on monetary expenditures was proposed as a way of making goals accessible. Allison Gant agreed to get additional information out to members on how money is to be spent. There was also a discussion on selling the need of ACE to existing corporations and foundations as a way of initially obtaining seed financing.

Speaking of a community wide effort to aid our schools, Davis used the example of Eastlawn Elementary turning itself around from having been imposed with federal government sanctions to recently reinstating itself. He mentioned that community resources, including Ebenezer UCC, worked hard to make a difference and reverse the school direction.

Members also discussed the need to be aware of forces impacting our schools. Chad Laws spoke about the influx of gang activity on Alamance County and the surrounding area.

All trustees and directors were asked by Chairman Davis to work directly with one or more of the standing committees or sub-committees to insure that work loads are distributed as evenly as possible so that ACE is able to meet its stated mission with everyone being involved.

All members present were asked to break out into work groups of their choice to begin a short work session at the close of the meeting.

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Terry Farmer and seconded by Angela Thompson-Clark. The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Foriest  
Secretary

**Meeting Reminders**

Board of Directors meeting: Thursday, October 20, 2005 at noon at First Baptist Church in Mebane (meetings are on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of every month).

Program of Work Committee: Tuesday, October 11, 2005, at 12:30 PM at the United Way Building (meetings are on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of every month).

Resource Sustainability Committee: Monday, September 26 at 7:30 AM at the Village of Brookwood.

Organizational Development Committee: Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 12:15 PM at ACC, Rm 341 (meetings are on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month).

**Subcommittees and Chairs to Contact if interested in serving:**

Kick-off Event—Allison Gant and Barbara Massey

Fund Raising—Jeff Ellington and Mary Erwin

Mini-grant Development—LaRosa Pinnix-Bailey, Jerry Dillashaw, Chris Davis

Community Forum Development—Ed Woodall, Chad Laws

Focus Group/Initial Task Force Presentation—Allison Gant

**Contact ACE through the following:**

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