



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

Minutes of the:
Alameda Citizens for Education (ACE)
Board of Directors Meeting
Amtrak Station
Burlington, NC

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Directors Present:

Michelle Ammann
Angela Thompson-Clark
Terry Farmer
Chad Laws
Tina Manning
Ed Woodall

Lane Anderson
Kate Crawford
Tony Foriest
Sylvester J. Lewis
Barbara Massey

LaRosa Pinnix-Bailey
Chris Davis
Allison Gant
Becky Loy
Terry McNeill

Director Proxies:

Jeff Andrews

Joe Barber

Gerald Dillashaw

Non-voting Ex Officio Member

Tom Manning

Executive Director:

Mary Erwin

Visitors:

Pamela Sherry, Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications and Teresa Mansfield, Manager of Community Affairs, LabCorp, Inc.

The **Board of Directors meeting** of the Alameda Citizens for Education (ACE) was called to order at 12:11 p.m. by President Allison Gant. Terry Farmer provided the invocation.

Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the August Directors meeting was made by Terry Farmer and seconded by Sylvester Lewis. The motion passed.

LabCorp Presentation: Pamela Sherry and Teresa Mansfield from LabCorp presented a check in the amount of \$25,000 to ACE. The funds will be utilized for the new Tutoring & Mentoring position, and parental involvement mini-grants.

Organizational Development: Mary Erwin acknowledged recent resignation notices from Nancy Whitfield and Stephanie Huffstetler. A motion to accept the resignations was made by Kate Crawford and seconded by Angela Thompson-Clark. The motion passed.

Allison Gant opened discussion on moving Mary Erwin's Executive Director position to full-time status at a compensation level of \$40,000 annually. Details for all employee benefits, including insurance and paid time off, have not been fully defined. The desire to affirm a part-time Tutoring & Mentoring Coordinator was also expressed. This position would not receive any employee benefits. A motion to approve both positions was made by Kate Crawford and seconded by Angela Thompson-Clark. The motion passed.

Allison Gant advised that the full-time Executive Director position would be effective October 1, 2006. The Organizational Development committee will develop a job description for the Tutoring & Mentoring Coordinator in conjunction with the Tutoring & Mentoring Coordinator subcommittee. Organizational Development will also focus on a replacement for the ACE Vice President position at their October meeting. Allison opened the floor for board members wanting to express an interest in the position.

Chris Davis advised that proposed changes to ACE's bylaws would be communicated via e-mail prior to the October board meeting, and voted on at the meeting.

Program of Work: Allison Gant reported that extremely positive comments and feedback had been received regarding the September 12th Education Summit. Summit Feedback forms have been sent to ABSS principals. Mary Erwin advised a report from the Summit will be published, including comments, suggestions and common threads. Tom Manning reported his only regret was that Dr. Merrill, former ABSS Superintendent, was not present to see the Summit. Tom felt the response and commitments received from the Summit should bode well for ACE and the ABSS going forward.

Mary Erwin advised that a chairperson is needed for the Tutoring & Mentoring subcommittee. She also reported that the ACE Educational Minute at ABSS middle and high school athletic events is going well.

Allison Gant advised the Program of Work is currently accepting evaluations and reports for parental involvement mini-grants for 2006 from the schools. We will maintain the grant level for 2006 – 07 at \$500 per school.

Mary Erwin acknowledged that the current year's (2005 – 06) mini-grant proposal from Cummings High School was apparently dropped during the school's recent turnover in administration and staff. The Mini-Grant subcommittee has requested board approval for Cummings to re-submit a request for a parent involvement literacy program. A motion to accept Cummings mini-grant request was made by Chris Davis and seconded by Terry Farmer. The motion passed.

Resource Sustainability / Fundraising: Kate Crawford gratefully acknowledged receipt of the \$25,000 check from LabCorp. She reported the Resource Sustainability / Fundraising committee

met on September 20 and made assignments of companies to visit for funding solicitations. The committee has also prepared a grant request template that can be utilized for corporation requests, including Coca Cola and Honda literacy programs. Kate further advised that a proposed student art competition does not look possible for now, but an art reception or other fundraising event with student art displayed may be an option. Allison Gant added an invitation for other board members to assist in making corporate solicitation visits.

Executive Director's Report: Mary Erwin reported that she has recently made fund- raising visits to Capital Bank, ARMC, and the Rotary club in Graham. Matching grants of \$2,000 may be available through Rotary International.

Allison Gant recognized the potential to take the presentation from the Education Summit out into the community, potentially in the form of an "Economic Impact of Education." Kate Crawford suggested the possibility of putting a similar format in the Alamance Magazine.

Mary Erwin advised that both the Burlington Times-News and the Alamance News were preparing stories on ACE and the LabCorp corporate gift.

Mary confirmed that new and lateral entry teachers in the ABSS were receiving their \$50 checks for classroom supplies this week. She acknowledge the need for the board to officially approve increasing the total funding of this project from \$6,000 to \$8,100 to accommodate all qualifying teachers. A motion to approve the increased funding was made by Angela Thompson-Clark and seconded by LaRosa Pinnix-Bailey. The motion passed.

An open discussion of fundraising, marketing, and increasing public awareness of the value and economic impact of education in our community followed.

Mary Erwin advised she recently represented ACE in the following community events:

- New Teacher Orientation
- New Schools Project retreat
- WBAG radio interview with John Glenn
- Holy Comforter Episcopal Men's breakfast meeting

Mary advised that ACE needs to begin work on an annual corporate report. She completed her report by reflecting a year had passed since she applied for the Executive Director's position, and she thanked all for the opportunity presented to her to serve.

Treasurer's Report: Becky Loy distributed and discussed the report, which reflected cash assets of \$73,890.34 currently in the bank. Becky further advised that ACE's net expense for the Education Summit was approximately \$2,500. Contributions were made of \$1,000 each from Wachovia and the Alamance-Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce towards the summit.

Terry Farmer suggested that we begin planning now for next year's Summit.

New Business: Tina Manning provided information about the upcoming “Beyond the Facts: Latinos in Alamance County” public forum scheduled for October 13 at Alamance Community College as part of the visit by members of Burlington’s sister city from Mexico.

Terry McNeil thanked Allison Gant for her involvement in the recent Spelling Bee sponsored by NIE (Newspapers in Education), ACC and the Times-News. Terry also provided details about ACC’s C-Step Program that provides free college credit opportunities to ABSS high school students who transfer to any of the 16 UNC-system campuses.

Allison Gant encourage board members to attend a political candidate forum hosted by VOICE on October 16 at First United Methodist Church in Graham. Allison also confirmed dates of future ACE meetings.

Michelle Ammann suggested that the new Tutoring & Mentoring Coordinator could potentially address the growing problem of students having to repeat the 9th grade.

With no other business raised, the Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Woodall
Secretary

Meeting Reminders:

Joint Board of Trustees / Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, October 19th, 12:00 noon – new Amtrak depot, Burlington (regular Board meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of every month)

Program of Work Committee: Tuesday, October 10th, ACC (meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the ACE office, 719 Hermitage Road)

Resource Sustainability Committee: Wednesday, October 18th, 12:00 noon (meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the ACE office)

Organizational Development Committee: Wednesday, October 11th, ACC, 12:15 p.m. (meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at ACC)

Tutoring and Mentoring Subcommittee: Tuesday, October 24th, 12:00 noon (meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the ACE office)