

ASCENT ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL



DATE: May 1, 2023

TIME: 5:15 – 6:15 pm

LOCATION: Ascent Conference Room

PARTICIPANTS:

Committee members:

James King, Chair

Jessica McDonald, Secretary (by phone)

Megan Engelstad

Shea Maimbourg

Nicole Stroud

Laurie Marks community member (by phone)

Wayne Brothers community member

Additional participants:

Trent Kramer, Headmaster

Taylor Gasper, Upper School

Agenda & Minutes

- We repeated Ascent's Mission Statement and Vision Statement.
- In Vino wanted to make over 75k, working on the final numbers and we think we did it.
- Feeling encouraged by the number of applications, a couple of positions being reposted to make sure we get the right fit.
- Meeting with finance to move forward with building. Trying to avoid modulars. No one wants those.
- Business
 - James- Today the Town Hall Minutes went up and the form is working.
 - Do we prefer meeting minutes to be posted or just the answers to questions that are submitted through the online portal?
 - Let's do meeting minutes and answers to questions submitted.

- Secretary will send the meeting minutes to committee, Committee Chair and Headmaster will review for accuracy, then they will be sent to Mrs. Young to post.
- Parent Partnership from the Board
 - Mr. Kramer will send these to the Ascent Accountability Council. This will be about the children's curriculum.
- Term limits for AAC parent members, faculty members, and community members
 - 3 years with extensions up to a 4th year if there is no interest in filling the position or a transition period is needed for that position.
 - Finalize the AAC bi-laws this summer
 - Faculty-Mr. Tomlin has been on for 2 years, should faculty be on for the same amount of time as parents or should it be 1-2 years and then switch. Always one from Grammar School and Upper School.
 - How will faculty members get on the AAC? Should they nominate each other? The teachers get a weekly communication and there could be an announcement put in there. Self or other nominations. AAC parents will have veto power to the teacher.
 - Ms. Gasper thinks she isn't a good fit right now for the Upper School faculty because of her commitments to track, would like to be replaced.
 - Possibly looking for 2 new faculty members for next school year.
 - Community members- we have 2 and we are only required to have 1. We will do the same term limits as the parents 3 years up to a 4th year if needed for transition.
 - What do we want from the Community Members? Definitely keeping their ear to the ground for events we can participate in during the year. Need to put this definition for Community members into the bi-laws.
 - You need to be off the AAC for 3 years before reapplying.
 - Roles needed, and should be added to bi-laws
 - Committee Chair (required)-meeting driver, keeps meetings on time, effect, longevity on the board, voted on by the AAC parents
 - Parent Liaison-knows a lot of parents, FB admin role, amiable and kind
 - Exit interviewer-listener, equanimity, unflappable
 - Secretary (minute person)- organized, detailed, thoughtful
 - New questions submitted? Will Katie respond to these? Katie not at the meeting, will discuss at next meeting.
 - Creating a new "best practice" for announcing sports. It needs to be in the Arrow at least 3 times before the sport starts or tryouts are held. Marketing and Communication team will both be involved.
- End of Year Parent Satisfaction survey

- Jess would like to suggest leaving it as close as possible to last year's survey to see if any of our efforts are making a difference.
- There will be a comment box to expand if a parent would like to.
- The last Board Chair had access to see all of the comments. We need to have confidentiality.
- We will keep it consistent.
- Mr. Kramer will get that out, we would like to have it out at least 2 weeks before school ends. Would like to have the data by the June meeting.
- We will text it out.
- People are still having a rough time finding the Board meeting info.
 - The Board doesn't have the information posted until 48 hours before the meeting.
 - Will try to make sure it is in the Arrow each time. Possibly text it out but not everyone likes that.
- Exit interview questions
 - Megan made the first call to a parent that wanted to speak to someone on the AAC after they had left the school.
 - Wouldn't put the details in the minutes, those will be scrubbed to say something like "review 3 exit interviews"
 - Have a different set of questions for a family that moved vs a family that left for other reasons
 - Come back to the meeting with themes, not necessarily the details of each interview.
- In the last month, communication has improved.
- Talk about AAC "retreat" at next meeting
- What is being done about staff morale?
 - Happy hours, admin check-ins, In Vino, trying to focus on the staff
- Mr. Kramer at Hillsdale June 18-29

- Schedule our next meeting:
 - The next meeting will be on **Monday, June 5th, 2023, at 5:30 PM.**