

AMES Board of Trustees

January 13, 2021

Called to Order: 5:05 p.m.

Attendees:

Board:

Richard Anthony
Liliana Diaz
Julie Faure
Alison Flanders
Shwan Javdan
Don Saxon
Lisa Taylor-Swanson

Staff:

Brett Wilson
Hema Katoa
Richard Welch
Nancy Carpenter

Visitors:

Paige Bird	Daryl Frahm	Paul Ramsey	Cora Cumming
Amy Noyce	Jude Horsley	Cynthia Stark	Emily Potts
Curt Roskelley	Anna Kramer	Michelle Staley	Stephanie Southwick
Sara Whitbeck-Zacharias		Robin Abramowitz	Smith Family
Lilly Golden	Jowee Upshaw	Pamela G.	Jenean Goodsell
Laura Lewon	Nikki Smith	Jodi Gardberg	Rebecca Cumming
DeAnn Tilton	Mark St. Andre	Jourdon Bluth	Ryan Jensen
Diana Bass	Robert Aullman	Gia Hohaia	Kari Sikorski
Cindy Hackett	Craig Schriber	Laurieann Thorpe	Darian Suluai
John Martell	Dave Robinson	Janna Martin	Jennifer Moffat
Adasa Pascual	Jersie	Julie Nelson	Angie
Laurie Williamson	Martha Taylor	Doug Hendricks	Angela's iPhone
Chris Lewon	Keith Homer		

Educational Excellence

1. Minutes of November 12, 2020 –

Motion to approve the minutes of November 12, 2020 as written: Shwan Javdan

2nd: Liliana Diaz

Vote: Unanimously approved

2. **PTSO Report** – Julie Faure reported that the AMES PTSO is doing well financially. They would like to fund scholarships this year which they weren't able to do in the 2019-2020 year. The PTSO is interested in advertising AMES application period, they are asking all members to encourage friends and family to apply and spread the word that AMES is looking for students for the 2021-2022 school year. Julie also mentioned that there are videos online to help with student success. The PTSO would also like to sponsor activities during 4th quarter to encourage comraderie.

- 3. COVID 19 – 3rd Quarter Opening** - The AMES Board questioned Brett Wilson about who the online schooling was negatively affecting. Don Saxon wondered if students who are in need of help could come in to the school. They asked about a hybrid systems, but due to AMES classroom sizes, it would be very challenging to maintain social distancing. It seems to be that the marginalized and at risk students are the ones suffering the most. Shwan Javdan pointed at the scientific facts at this time and noted that he thinks we should follow what they are recommending. We would like to have students in the building, but we don't have the academic aides that could cover all of the classrooms. The AMES Board knows that this is a difficult decision, if we opened up for 3rd Quarter, it would only give teachers 2 days to prepare and they would like to see all teachers receive the vaccine before they return to in person teaching. The Board would like the administration to put together a plan to re-open to in person teaching.
Motion to continue online for the 3rd quarter and prepare a plan to return to in person teaching for 4th quarter. The Board will discuss progress and the plan each month until the return of students: Shwan Javdan
2nd: Liliana Diaz
Vote: Yea – 5, Nay – 2, Motion carries.
- 4. COVID Testing Protocol/Kits** – The state has provided AMES with some COVID testing kits. We will use these to test our Robotics team weekly and when needed.
- 5. Busing Survey** – AMES parents and students responded to a survey about busing needs. A slight majority said that they wouldn't be hurt if AMES changed to UTA passes, however, some students would have to transfer 2 or 3 times in order to use UTA. The Board is wondering if we could look at using both busing & UTA.
- 6. Busing Contract** – In light of the response from the busing survey and Red Star passing on a Shop In Utah 25% discount for 4 months.
Motion to continue the Red Star Transportation contract: Julie Faure
2nd: Liliana Diaz
Vote: Yea – 6, Abstain – 1, Motion carries
- 7. Special Education Complaint** – There is a Special Education training scheduled for all teachers this Friday, to address issues in the complaint. March 7, 2021 will be the Special Ed Audit conducted by the state. Other training will be held with the staff on January 22, at that training we will address Special Ed students who are failing classes. AMES has hired a new Special Education aide and will review the AMES Special Education Manual.
- 8. Fee Schedule – 2nd Reading** – The AMES Board was presented with 3 fee schedules that were formatted differently. The Board decided that they like the format of #2 which will be presented in the February meeting for approval.
- 9. PSAT/ACT Testing Schedule** – AMES did not offer the PSAT in October when it is usually scheduled. We will be offering it to 11th grade students that are interested in taking it on January 26th. The counselors will administer the test. The ACT test is scheduled during the second window, the 11th grade students will be divided in to groups of 20 with 2 groups testing each day on March 23, 24 & 25.

Fiscal

1. **December Bonus** – The AMES Board discussed the funding options for the bonus that was given to AMES faculty & staff in December. It was originally planned to be funded by TSSA, but after discussion, it was decided to use the the AMES fund balance.

Motion to use the AMES fund balance for the December bonus: Richard Anthony
2nd: Shwan Javdan

Vote: Unanimously approved

Board Organization

1. **Change for February Board Meeting** – Due to Parent/Teacher conferences in February, the AMES Board meeting will need to be changed to Thursday the 11th instead of Wednesday the 10th.
2. **Board Leadership Transition & Mentoring** – The January Board meeting was running long due to parent interest and comment.

Motion to table this item until March: Don Saxon

2nd: Liliana Diaz

Vote: Unanimously approved

Foundation

No Business

AMES Mission

1. **Applications & Enrollment** – The AMES application opened on January 4th, we have over 100 applications so far, we are pleased with the response so far.

Public Comment was held at the beginning of the meeting because of interest in the subjects being discussed.

Jude Horsely, AMES student would like to open back up. There is not a lot of COVID spread in the school according to Granite School District. He would like to see us open with caution & responsibility, maybe even with a hybrid schedule.

Jessica Bonemeyer, AMES parent is asking the Board to consider bringing students back to school, her student is struggling.

Ryan Jensen, AMES parent stated that they love AMES, he has a junior and a freshman. His son has struggled, he has missed the engagement and learning process. He doesn't feel that online learning is for high school students and it is harder to control access to technology in the home. He would like to see the students come back in person.

Kari Sikorski, AMES parent is in favor of students going back. Her pediatrician says that COVID isn't spreading in the schools. Let's get the students back.

Jodi Gardberg, AMES parent thanked the teachers and administration. Jodi is worried about the cases rising and would like to see AMES continue online.

Laurieann Thorpe, AMES parent and former member of the State Board of Education thanked the Board for being so considerate about everyone's thoughts.

Michelle Staley, AMES parent works in the health care industry and is concerned about the rise in cases. She thinks we should continue online. She also wanted to thank the AMES teachers for all of their hard work.

Laura Lewon, AMES parent thanked AMES for doing an incredible job keeping students safe. She is seeing some concerning signs in her son and feels that he needs to be with other people and get back to class, hybrid or otherwise.

Jourdon Bluth, AMES parent thanked teachers and the administration for working during a difficult time. She says that online learning is astronomically horrible for children. She feels that we are losing sight of what is most important and that we are staying online for the teachers and not the students.

Dave Robinson, AMES parent says he would like us to follow the science. Trends are going up and COVID stats are moving in the wrong direction. There are long term impacts on the heart and lungs. Now is not the time to go back.

Cora Cumming, AMES student thanked the Board for letting them share their opinions. She would like to have the option of online or in person but she knows that is a big ask for teachers.

Craig Schriber, AMES parent says that his freshman student is doing well and he is not in favor of coming back at this time. He is still feeling a little short of feeling safe and is not ready to send his student back.

Diana Bass, AMES parent thanks the AMES board for putting public health as a priority. There is no shame in protecting the faculty if going back 4th quarter instead of 3rd. She appreciates the access to teachers on Fridays.

Lilly Golden, AMES student feels like the students opinions are important. She used to be a straight A student but online has been extremely hard for her. She would like to see a hybrid system also.

Paige Bird, AMES student is a freshman and going in person for Cottonwood classes. Most students are being appropriate and being online has been frustrating. She wants to get to know other students and she knows she would understand more in person. She supports opening up carefully.

Lila Howells, AMES student says that online has been OK for her. Safety is more important than coming back in person, it would be detrimental to come back in person.

Cynthia Stark, AMES parent thanked the teachers and staff at AMES. She knows it has been lots of work and she feels that it has been high quality. She endorsed the views of Dave Robinson and Michelle Staley.

Daryl Frahm, AMES parent is a proponent for going back in person. The long term mental health for students is important.

Mark St. Andre, AMES parent thanked the Board for the forum. He agrees that rates are too high and we can't ignore them. He hears the concern from students and parents but feels we need to stay online. He suggested volunteer activities for help with the mental health of the students.

Emily Potts, AMES parent has a freshman who is excelling at AMES and is totally engaged. She feels that we should come back 4th quarter.

Chris Lewon, AMES parent feels like AMES has done a fantastic job of navigating this year with COVID. He would like to see a hybrid model and as soon as teachers can get vaccinated he would like to see students return to the classroom.

Robin Abramowitz, AMES parent of a senior and freshman. She would love for things to be normal, but science says it is not safe at this time. We need to wait at least until teachers are fully vaccinated. She knows it is difficult for students online and it is difficult mentally for students, we need to help students get caught up.

Darian Suluai, AMES student would like to see a hybrid system. Online learning has been mentally draining. He would like more help from teachers.

Jenean Goodsell, AMES parent has 2 students. Her freshman is suffering, we need to go back in person to help those that are suffering.

Curt Roskelly, AMES parent says his student has a lot of mental stress. His son hasn't had problems going to Cottonwood High classes. We can stay safe with masks and washing hands.

Keith Homer, AMES teacher really appreciated all of the comments. He appreciates the Board's decision to stay online. He appreciates the health and safety concerns, we will reach the finish line and we don't give up because we are tired of the situation.

Sara Whitbeck-Zacharias, AMES teacher thanked the Board for allowing everyone a voice. She has a newborn and a high risk husband and appreciates that we are online. Please don't go back before we can be vaccinated.

Amy Noyce, AMES teacher thanked the board for letting everyone speak. She doesn't think that we are ready to start 3rd term in person. The mental health issues of the students should not be discounted, but guilt shouldn't send us back to the classroom when we don't think it is safe.

Paul Ramsey, AMES teacher is very high risk. He loves being in the classroom and everyone needs to have both rounds of vaccines before we go back. He needs to feel safe in his classroom.

Laurie Williamson, AMES Technology runs the computer lab and has almost 40 students in there every day. The students want to be here and we need to look at reality instead of science. Opening up is a good idea and we need to be here for the students.

Rebecca Cumming, AMES parent says her daughter needs to be back. She says she doesn't want to do anything, she needs to be back mentally. Emotionally the students need to be back.

Noah Sikorski, AMES student stated that he has been very careful wearing a mask. He works and feels safe and says if we are careful it can work.

DeAnn Tilton, AMES teacher and parent, says that her heart goes out to both the parents and teachers. Her son loves AMES but is currently in residential treatment for depression. As a parent her heart goes out to the students, and as a teacher she would love to see her students but she feels that we need to follow the science and wait until everyone is vaccinated.

8:19 p.m.

Motion to close meeting: Julie Faure

2nd: Liliana Diaz

Vote: Unanimously approved

Next Meeting – February 11, 2021

Approved 2/11/2021