

# AMES Board of Trustees

January 9, 2020

Called to Order: 5:16 p.m.

## Attendees:

### Board:

Richard Anthony

Julie Faure

Shwan Javdan

Donald Saxon

Liz Taylor

Lisa Taylor-Swanson

### Staff:

Brett Wilson

Hema Katoa

Richard Welch

Nancy Carpenter

### Visitors:

Amy Noyce

Mark St. Andre

## Educational Excellence

### 1. Minutes of November 20, 2019 –

**Motion** to approve the minutes of November 20, 2019 as written: Don Saxon

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Lisa Taylor-Swanson

**Vote:** Unanimously approved

- ### 2. PTSO Report –
- Lisa Taylor-Swanson reported that the PTSO had just concluded a meeting where they discussed the upcoming Winter Dance on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January. They also discussed what activities that they could help with through the end of the year with dinner for Parent/Teacher conferences, Teacher Appreciation Week, the end of year barbecue and the Senior Graduation party. The PTSO has always given a scholarship and they discussed the possibility of ending the awarding due to lack of funding, it will be discussed further in their next meeting.
- ### 3. FERPA Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading –
- Brett Wilson presented the AMES Board with a copy of the AMES FERPA Policy. He asked the Board members to review the policy and will present for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the February 2020 Board meeting.
- ### 4. Zero Tolerance Policy –
- Don Saxon, AMES Board member asked to discuss the possibility of implementing a Zero Tolerance Policy. After having received articles and information from other Board Members he agreed that a Zero Tolerance Policy would not benefit the students, but he would like to see policies that would have severe consequences if a student was involved in violent gang activity or the sale of drugs. In discussion, the Board made the request for Brett Wilson to prepare a drug policy that will cover “Over the Counter” and Prescription drugs. Brett will also make an addition to our student handbook that includes the consequences when students are involved in gang violence.

- 5. Drivers Education Information** – Brett Wilson presented the AMES Board with information from the years 2017-2020, the information included how much AMES paid for our students to take Drivers Education classes. The cost was enough to justify AMES dropping Drivers Education and having students take it on their own time. Cottonwood High School would support this change as there are not enough classes to cover Cottonwood and AMES students and many are put on a waiting list. More research will be done before a decision is made to see how this could affect class size and AMES might still be responsible for a fee waiver student to take the class at their home boundary high school. The Board requested that we respond to them with the amount AMES has paid for students on fee waiver who take Drivers Education.
- 6. Lottery Procedure** – The AMES Board was given a copy of the AMES Lottery procedure.

## **Fiscal**

- 1. October – December Fiscals** – Richard Welch presented the fiscal report to the AMES Board. He let them know that we are right on track with no surprises and nothing exciting happening.  
**Motion** to approve the fiscals as presented: Lisa Taylor-Swanson  
**2<sup>nd</sup>**: Julie Faure  
**Vote:** Unanimously approved
- 2. Compensation for Teachers Who Don't Take Insurance** – Brett Wilson asked to table this discussion, he would like to do more research to see what other charter schools do. Richard Welch mentioned that the Utah Retirement System may not allow for this.

## **Board Organization**

- 1. No Business**

## **Foundation**

- 1. Foundation** – The AMES Foundation Board met to discuss new ways of fund raising. They have several projects that they would like to fund if they can find money for them: They would like to help other clubs besides Robotics, computers for students, fund student tutoring or offer a stipend for new Math teachers. They have reached out to a parent who is a fund raising expert and are asking for ideas from other Board members.

## **AMES Mission**

- 1. New Math Teacher** – Cassandra Peterson has been hired as the new AMES Math teacher. She doesn't have the experience with CPM the math program that AMES uses, but we do have a grant to implement some training for her.  
**Motion** to approve the hire of Cassandra Peterson: Liz Taylor  
**2<sup>nd</sup>**: Lisa Taylor-Swanson  
**Vote:** Unanimously approved

2. **Current Demographics** – The AMES Board was given the current student count, we have 131 9<sup>th</sup> graders and will be adding 6 at the semester, 127 10<sup>th</sup> graders, 124 11<sup>th</sup> graders and 114 12<sup>th</sup> graders.
3. **Lottery Report** – As of January 9<sup>th</sup>, we have received 95 applications 21 of which are siblings.
4. **Charter Board Training** – The AMES Board was given information about upcoming trainings for charter school board members.
5. **Important upcoming dates** – The AMES Board was given a list of important dates.

**Public Comment** – Amy Noyce, AMES Language Arts teacher thanked the AMES Board for the holiday bonus that the staff received.

Mark St. Andre, AMES parent, commented on the Tolerance policy, he thinks that the punishment sounds too harsh and could be replaced by community service.

**Motion** to move in to closed session: Don Saxon

**2<sup>nd</sup>**: Julie Faure

**Vote:** Unanimously Approved

**Closed session called at 6:18 p.m.**

**Next Meeting – February 13, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.**

*Approval pending*