

AMES Board of Trustees

July 30, 2020

Called to Order: 5:06 p.m.

Attendees:

Board:

Richard Anthony

Liliana Diaz

Alison Flanders

Shwan Javdan

Donald Saxon

Lisa Taylor-Swanson

Excused:

Julie Faure

Staff:

Brett Wilson

Hema Katoa

Richard Welch

Nancy Carpenter

Visitors:

See attached list.

Educational Excellence

1. Minutes of June 11, 2020 –

Motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2020 as written: Shwan Javdan

2nd: Lisa Taylor-Swanson

Vote: Unanimously approved

Due to the interest in the School Reopening Plans, **Public Comment** was moved to the beginning of the meeting so patrons could voice opinion and make comments.

Doug Hendricks – AMES Physics Teacher – Mr. Hendricks voiced concern about teachers coming back full time as before COVID. He is concerned about coming back and putting his and his family's life on the line by coming back too soon.

Jodi Gardberg – AMES Parent – Ms. Gardberg doesn't think there is a safe option if students come back full time, she would like the AMES Board to consider virtual learning only.

Paul Ramsey – AMES Science Teacher – Mr. Ramsey echoed what Mr. Hendricks said. He doesn't want to open and proposed online only classrooms. He thinks opening online is being responsible.

Kim Spencer – AMES Social Studies Teacher – Ms. Spencer also echoed the other AMES teachers, she would like to start online and watch and see if the cases start decreasing.

Stacy Arens – AMES Parent – Ms. Arens has a 9th grade son with underlying conditions, her concern for her son is the reason that she would like the AMES Board to consider the online option.

Amy Noyce – AMES Language Arts Teacher – Ms. Noyce also echoed the other teachers, she is concerned about our small classrooms and the inability to promote social distancing. She is also concerned about our small Substitute teacher pool and the worries if teachers get sick and we won't have the resources to cover their classes. She would like to have the safest start possible: "Start out safe, start out slow".

Tammi Ganguli – AMES Parent - Ms. Ganguli stated that she has an incoming 11th grader with underlying health conditions. A healthy staff and students are important to her, she would like the option of online learning at this time.

Mark St. Andre – AMES Parent – Mr. St. Andre wanted to echo the sentiments of all the previous speakers. He has an incoming 9th grade student as well as a Senior. He has been contacted by other parents worried about the safety of students starting school. He mentioned that many of them stated that they would keep their students out of school if AMES started as usual. He mentioned that Ms. Spencer did a great job of teaching online when school was closed in March.

Keith Homer – AMES Spanish Teacher – Mr. Homer noted that there is political pressure to start school as usual, but he mentioned an article that said "What If..." He also echoes the concerns of others and likes the idea of being flexible and to allow other options.

Amy Khan – AMES Parent – Ms. Khan thanks the AMES Board for listening to the concerns presented tonight. She has an incoming 9th grader and has a background in public health. She thinks we can be flexible and creative while using sound principles. She feels very strongly about weighing risks and students not being in the building. She is in favor of distance learning.

Janna Martin – AMES Social Studies Teacher – In a written statement in the comments of the virtual meeting, Ms. Martin thanked and supported the feeling of the other teachers.

Richard Anthony thanked everyone for their comments and their attendance at the meeting.

- 2. PTSO Request** – Brett Wilson asked the PTSO to see if they could get volunteers to help. This could include passing out masks or directing students should school start as usual. Any support the PTSO can give will be appreciated.
- 3. Plans for Reopening AMES** – Brett Wilson went over the options for reopening AMES in August. The **first** option is to open as usual with students wearing masks and no changes in the schedule. Push start date back to after Labor Day. The **second** option would be a hybrid schedule with an AA, BB or AB, AB schedule. This would divide the students according to the alphabet and students would attend 2 days a week, 1 A day and 1 B day. This will lower class size and help with social distancing. This option would also be supported by online learning. The **third** option is to start fully online.

The AMES Board was previously presented a list of the Pros and Cons of the opening options, they asked Brett Wilson for a brief review.

Pros & Cons – Full start

AMES has small classrooms with tables which will limit social distancing. We will provide teaching stations with plexiglas and face shields, wipes for cleaning before

each class. Students will not be allowed in the halls before school and won't be allowed in classrooms during lunch. Pushing start date back to after Labor Day would just delay the start with no known benefits.

Pros & Cons – Hybrid Schedule

The Hybrid schedule allow more room in classrooms for social distancing although we can't guarantee 6 feet between students. It will allow for both in person and online learning. Teachers would be in the building to help with problems. Could be difficult to coordinate Cottonwood classes.

Pro & Cons – Online Learning

Online learning mitigates risk for teachers and students with health concerns. Online wasn't as successful as we wanted it to be last Spring. Cottonwood classes could be difficult to attend if students don't have transportation. Teachers and staff have learned from 4th quarter last year and will be better prepared with Canvas. Teachers will be in the building for students to make appointments for extra help.

Brett Wilson recommended the Hybrid Schedule with online content.

The AMES Board had several questions for Mr. Wilson

Shwan Javdan (SJ): Would the hybrid schedule allow for 6' social distancing?

BW: Yes, but we would need to check the details and actual measurements in each classroom to verify that there could be 10-13 students in each class.

SJ: Do teachers feel like they would be able to provide better instruction if going online without the emergency issue that we had in the spring?

BW: We weren't consistent but we can be now.

SJ: With online learning only, could AMES students take Cottonwood classes?

BW: Yes, that possibility still exists. Brett Wilson and Terri Roylance, Cottonwood Principal have discussed the possibility, Cottonwood Band & Choir would suffer without AMES students participation.

Liliana Diaz (LD): Are we still considering online only or just blended?

BW: All options are on the table.

LD: Blended learning and in person learning increases contact so online makes sense.

Donald Saxon: If we bring students fully, social distancing won't be a possibility?

BW: We don't have the room to social distance if we open as normal.

DS: Will Cottonwood High School students still be able to take AMES classes?

BW: That is a small enough number that we aren't worried about that.

Lisa Taylor-Swanson (LTS): Is it feasible to start with online synchronous streaming only and re-assess mid-term?

BW: This could be an issue if more than 1 student is in the home. Recording lessons will help but synchronous scheduling would help students.

LTS: How many families are we looking at that have more than one student?

Nancy Carpenter: A quick search came up with approximately 44 families. (A more thorough search showed 63 families.)

Motion to adopt the Hybrid options with re-evaluation at every monthly AMES Board meeting with possible changes at the end of each quarter: Don Saxon

2nd: Richard Anthony

Vote: Yea – 2, Richard Anthony, Don Saxon

Nay – 4, Liliana Diaz, Alison Flanders, Shwan Javdan, Lisa Taylor-Swanson

Motion does not carry

Motion to start the school year fully online with re-evaluation monthly at the AMES Board meeting to move to the Hybrid schedule at the nearest term or mid-term when it is deemed safe: Alison Flanders

2nd: Lisa Taylor-Swanson

Vote: Yea – 5, Richard Anthony, Liliana Diaz, Alison Flanders, Shwan Javdan,
Lisa Taylor-Swanson

Nay – Donald Saxon

Motion carries

4. **Alternative Plan for Reopening: Blended Program** – This was covered in the discussion of item #3.
5. **Extra Time for Staff in Summer Notification** – Brett Wilson is going to invite the teachers to come in a week earlier to prepare for the online course instruction. Brett has discussed this with Richard Welch with assurances that we do have the funds in the budget to pay the teachers for the extra time.
6. **New School Schedule** – Cottonwood High School will be adding another lunch period to their schedule this year which will alter the AMES schedule as we have been assigned the second lunch period.

Fiscal

1. **May Fiscals** – Richard Welch presented the May fiscals, AMES has a fund balance of 1.6 to 1.8 million, we are financially stable.

Motion to approve the May fiscals as presented: Donald Saxon

2nd: Shwan Javdan

Vote: Unanimously approved

2. **2020-2021 Budget** – With the changes that were made today and the extra time teachers will be working, the 2020-2021 working budget is not going to be affected.

Board Organization

1. **Board Chair** – The AMES Board discussed options and asked Lisa Taylor-Swanson if she would be willing to serve as chair.

Motion to nominate Lisa Taylor-Swanson as AMES Board Chair: Shwan Javdan

2nd: Donald Saxon

Vote: Unanimously approved

2. **AMES Board Meeting Schedule** – The AMES Board was given the schedule for 2020-2021 school year. The meeting will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each Month. The November meeting was changed to Thursday in honor of Veteran's Day with no meeting scheduled in December.

Foundation

A item will be added to the September agenda to replace a Foundation Board member.

AMES Mission

No Business

Motion to adjourn to a closed session at 7:30p.m.: Donald Saxon

2nd: Shwan Javdan

Vote: Unanimously approved

Visitors:

Kari Gardner

Douglas Hendricks

Robin Abramowitz

Heather Haley

Cindy Hackett

Pamela Garringer

Robert Aullman

Daryl Frahm

Michelle Nelson

Liz Gualtier

Janna Martin

Amy Noyce

Stephanie Southwick

Kim Spencer

Zac Pau'u

Keith Homer

Jowee Upshaw

Paul Ramsey

Stacey Arens

Jodi Gardberg

Mark St. Andre

Amy Khan

Tammi Ganguli

Denece Taylor-Begay

Pamela Garringer

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next Meeting – September 9, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.

Approved 9/9/20