

AMES Board of Trustees

March 10, 2021

Called to Order: 5:03 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:

Eric Shmookler

Cindy Hackett

Amy Noyce

Jodi Gardberg

Curt Roskelley

Jeshua Aullman

Martha Taylor

Amy Kahn

Jana Martin

Sienna Robinson

David Robinson

Laine Bradley

Heather Haley

Kim Spencer

Paul Ramsey

Adasa Pascual

Doug Hendricks

Sara Whitbeck-Zacharias

Robin Abramowitz

Jude Horsley

Craig Schriber

Jaycie Begay

Keith Homer

Educational Excellence

1. Minutes of February 11, 2021 –

Motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2021 as written: Liliana Diaz

2nd: Shwan Javdan

Vote: Unanimously approved

2. PTSO Report – Julie Faure reported that the AMES PTSO had a small meeting on March 4th. They discussed bring breakfast in to teachers on Fridays during Freshman House and also for 11th graders who will be taking the ACT test later in March. They are still looking for help to judge senior scholarship applications and looking for a chair for that committee. Jenica Barber has volunteered to help with a senior Graduation activity.

3. Student Recognition – Brett Wilson introduced 3 AMES Seniors who are National Merit Finalists. Laine Bradley, Jude Horsley & Siena Robinson. Paulina Fillapova was also a finalist and was unable to attend due to an early graduation.

Siena Robinson is a 4.0 student who has taken 7 University of Utah classes, is a lead of the AMES Robotics team. She has a full ride scholarship to the University of Rhode Island, she plans on majoring in Mechanical Engineering & Chinese.

Laine Bradley is also a 4.0 student and has also taken 7 University of Utah classes. She has taken, Chemistry, Calculus and Writing and has been accepted to the University of Utah Honors College for the fall.

Jude Horsley has taken 8 University of Utah classes including Physics, Calculus and Writing. He has also been a paid TA at the University since his sophomore year. He plays piano for the Cottonwood High School choir program and also takes Russian at AMES. Jude is waiting to hear from both Princeton and MIT.

- 4. AMES In Person Opening – 4th Quarter** – Brett Wilson reported what the options for opening 4th quarter look like. The Hybrid option may be a problem due to the many AMES students who participate in Cottonwood classes. The recommendation would be for students to come back 4 days a week with Friday as a distance learning day to match the Cottonwood schedule. The AMES buses would drop off on the north side of the building and students would go in to the Cottonwood courtyard until the bell rings. In cases of bad weather, the students would go directly to their first class to wait for the bell. Picnic tables will be added by the south entrance so students can go outside during lunch or stay in the Cottonwood lunch room or commons area. Skunkworks and the pods will be closed during lunch. At the end of the day, the buses will pick up on the south side of the building as usual. We are working with teachers on their requests to keep students and themselves safe in their classrooms. We are providing teacher stations, sanitizing wipes and extra masks. Most teachers have been vaccinated. If students wish to stay online, they will still be required to attend synchronously, they will also be required to stay online for the remainder of the school year. Teachers would like some extra time to prepare their classrooms, perhaps they can take Wednesday and Thursday while Juniors are taking the ACT and let students do make up work on their own for the end of the term.

Motion to return to In Person schooling as outlined in Option 1 of the Fourth Quarter Opening report with adding March 24th & 25th for Teacher Preparation Days with the addition of requiring all students & staff to wear masks: Shwan Javdan

2nd: Donald Saxon

Vote: Unanimously approved

- 5. 2021 Graduation** - It seems that having Graduation at Kingsbury Hall is not possible this year. The Cottonwood High School football field seems to be the best option. We are still waiting for a date that doesn't conflict with the Cottonwood graduation. We are looking at the 2nd or 3rd and due to the current pandemic, we may need to restrict the number of tickets.

Fiscal

- 1. State Staff Bonus** – Each full time teacher will receive the \$1,500.00 COVID bonus from the State Legislature. Brett Wilson & Richard Welch decided that AMES has the funds to add \$500 to the \$1,000.00 bonus the full time classified employees received so that all full time employees will receive \$1,500.00. Part time employees will also receive a small bonus.
- 2. ESSER Grant** – The ESSER grant will provide \$174,000 funding for COVID related expenses. It was submitted the first time and has to be redone. Brett Wilson is re-submitting the plan that is due on March 31, 2021.

Board Organization

1. **Fiscal Training – Sub Committee** – The AMES Board discussed organizing a committee to oversee the yearly audit and help with RFP’s when looking for new auditors. Alison Flanders and Julie Faure volunteered to work together as the Audit Committee.

Foundation

No Business

AMES Mission

1. **Lottery Information** – The AMES Board was given demographic and other information regarding the lottery held on March 1, 2021.
2. **Important Upcoming Dates** – The AMES Board was given a list of important events happening in the month of March.

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

Paul Ramsey, AMES teacher thanked the AMES Board for allowing him to speak. The Board will probably vote to open the school and he will support their decision but he doesn’t feel that the pandemic is over. He thinks it will take courage but he doesn’t think opening is the right thing to do. He doesn’t like the hybrid option, it should be a full opening, but he doesn’t think it is safe to come back to school.

Jodi Gardberg, AMES parent thanked the AMES Board for keeping students safe, she asked that if the school opens to please accommodate students that want to stay online.

Robin Abramowitz, AMES parent asked the AMES Board to please consider lunch time and student safety during lunch.

Eric Shmookler, AMES parent stated that as a parent he would love to see students back in the school.

Curt Roskelley, AMES parent is in favor of students going back, his son is involved with Cottonwood classes and has enjoyed being able to attend.

Craig Schriber, AMES parent was previously in favor of online learning, he is now in favor of returning to in person classes. AMES has done a fabulous job in the last year.

6:58 p.m.

Motion to adjourn: Donald Saxon

2nd: Shwan Javdan

Vote: Unanimously approved

Next Meeting – April 14, 2021

Approved 4/14/2021