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# Ascend Leadership Academy

December 2023

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

**Location:** In Person

**Remote Option Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84042318906?pwd=WxNWQTV3YVpkb0N0TXRXU3RVTHRydz09>

**Members Present:** Jason Smith, Rex Scott, Monique Torrez, Candice Broadus-McDougald, Dylan Howell, Kimberly Grice, Melanie Jacobs,

**Members Absent:** Drew Goodson, Roger Linville

**Non-Members Present:** Justin Smith (Director), Zachary Donahue (CSP), Damien Perez, Robert Sims

**Call to Order:** Jason Smith called the meeting to order at 6:29pm.

**School Mission:**

The mission of Ascend Leadership Academy is to develop successful student leaders by growing their self-efficacy, intellectual understanding, and social competence. ALA will accomplish this by applying innovative teaching methods, incorporating student cultural realities and cultivating student ownership in the learning community.

## Agenda

Open Session

- 1. Recitation of Mission:** Ju. Smith recited the School's mission statement.
- 2. Approval of Consent Agenda:** R. Scott made a motion to approve the consent agenda as written. D. Howell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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## Consent Agenda

- [Approval of October 2023 Minutes](#)
- Approval of December 2023 Agenda

- 3. Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
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*Public comment is a time for the community to provide feedback to the Board of Directors. For in-person meetings attendees must sign up at the start of the meeting in order to give public comment. Each community member is limited to 2 minutes of comment, with a total time allotted to public comment of 10 minutes. During remote meetings attendees may add their public comments to the chat feature which will be sent directly to the Board of Directors. Board members will then share the comments with the meeting attendees for up to 10 minutes.*

*Public comment is also a time for the Board of Directors to listen to the feedback of the community. Board members can not respond to public comments during the meeting. However, the Board recognizes that each stakeholder is a vital part of our community and will take comments into consideration when making decisions, planning, providing feedback to administration, and completing committee work.*

4. **Senior Project Presentation:** Teacher Michael Markofski was joined by students Samantha Rodriguez and Jacob Gray to discuss this year's Senior Project. Mr. Markofski described the project and the various components. Samantha shared her experience interning with an Interior Designer and Jacob shared about his project related to Paleontology. Mr. Smith shared an update on the Class of 2024's acceptances into 4-year colleges and universities. He described the number of students who applied and the varying universities students had been accepted to.
  - a. Senior Representatives present about their Senior Project Experience
  - b. College Acceptance Updates:
    - i.  2023-24 Class of 2024 College Statistics
5. **High School Exam Exemption Policy:** Mrs. Wickes, a high school Science Teacher, was present to answer questions and explain the updated High School exam exemption policy written by the Instructional Leadership team. Board members asked questions about the policy and discussed adding an element related to student behavior and suspensions. The Board will revisit the policy if ALA administration determines this addition is needed. Motion to approve as written was made by R. Scott and second by D. Howell. Motion carried unanimously.
  - a.  ALA High School Exam Exemption Policy
6. **Administrative Report:** Ju. Smith reviewed the Administrative Report for the month of November. Ju. Smith then highlighted the most recent NC Check-In data with the board and compared it to last year's data. We are trending in line with last year's data and the hope is that EOC/EOG proficiency scores are similar or increase.
  - a.  December 6th Admin Report
  - b.  NC Check-In Data 23-24
7. **Finance Report:** Z. Donahue reviewed the monthly financial report for the month of October 2023. He also gave the board insight to the recently completed annual fiscal audit. He shared pages that the board members could review and provided highlights of the report.
  - a. [Finance Report - October 2023](#)

b. [FY23 Audit Review](#)

**8. Parental Leave Policy:** Ju. Smith presented information related to the state parental leave policy and informed board members that ALA needed to opt in or out as soon as possible. The Board decided to opt out due to a lack of specific information about the program. A motion was made by Jason Smith and seconded by D. Howell to opt out of this program for now. Motion carried unanimously.

a. [State Information Document](#)

**Closed Session (If Needed):**

D. Howell made a motion to go into closed session to discuss school safety matters at 8:00 pm. Seconded by R. Scott. Motion carried unanimously.

Purpose of Closed Session Discussion Item #3: 143-318.11. Closed sessions.(a) Permitted Purposes. - It is the policy of this State that closed sessions shall be held only when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted in this section. A public body may hold a closed session and exclude the public only when a closed session is required:

(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee...

## **Adjournment**

Motion was made to go back into open session and adjourn the meeting at 8:29pm by Jason Smith and second by Kimberly Grice at 8:29pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.