

**AATF Board of Directors  
Minutes August 21, 2023  
Location: In-Person and Virtual via Zoom**

1. Call to Order  
Suzanne Larkin called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

2. Roll Call

	Oct 10	Nov 14	Dec 12	Jan 9	Feb 9 Special	Feb 13	Mar 20	Apr 17	May 15	Jun 19	Jul 17	Aug 21
Larkin, Suzanne	X	X	X	X	X	X	Zoom	X	X	X	Absent	X
Bingham, Will	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rouser, Janay	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sturwold, Earl	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lastowski, Emily	X	X	X	X	X	X	zoom	X	X	Zoom	X	X
Maggard, Dana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Zoom	X	Absent	X
Bussey, Rutland	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Zoom	Zoom	X
Brady, Ryan										X	X	X

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence  
FFA members led the Pledge.

4. Public Inquiry  
Sandra Watson, parent at Academy at the Farm explained that she has a son in preschool and has been working with preschool on a plan for her son, who has an allergy to ants. She inquired if there is a back-up plan to the back-up plan if needed.

5. **Minutes for July 17, 2023**  
Emily Lastowski motioned to approve the minutes for July 17, 2023 as presented; Earl Sturwold seconded; all approved.

6. Committee Reports

- 6.1. **Financial Report - Earl Sturwold**

Earl Sturwold reported that a CD has been purchased with the revenue we have to generate interest income for the school. The deficit cash flow showing is normal for this time of year. Janay Rouser motioned to accept the financial report for July 2023 as presented; Dana Maggard seconded; all approved.

- 6.2. Expansion Committee

Will Bingham reported that due to the fire suppression system and budget restraints the committee decided to have two Ag classroom buildings instead of one large building, Both will be built at the same time. Splitting the classrooms will save \$40,000.00 for a sprinkler system required for the oversized space. Each Ag classroom will be approximately 950 square feet. The committee has received three bids for clearing the land for new pasture space so the livestock can be moved from the high school location.

**Emergency Item**

Dan Dwyer explained that the copy of the Shumaker Agreement (all board members received copies) is an engagement letter for legal services. The Board has been asked to review this agreement, which has been signed by the Board President, Will Bingham and add it as an emergency item. Mr. Dwyer reviewed the contract and shared that Mr. Matt Maggard will assist the school with the high school expansion contracts.

Earl Struworld motioned to accept the Shumaker Agreement as an emergency item as presented; Janay Rouser seconded; all approved.

Earl Sturwold motioned to accept the Shumaker Agreement as presented; Ryan Brady seconded; all approved.

Dan Dwyer noted that Dana Maggard asked to be abstained from voting on the Shumaker Agreement.

Ray Polk reported that the builder for the Ag classroom has been asked to bid for a brick & mortar Resource building to compare the pricing with the proposed modular building. The modular building can not be ordered until we have a building permit. He mentioned that it is about a 4 month turnaround with pricing increasing as time goes by.

6.3. **New Board Member Committee**

Will Bingham reported that the committee reviewed 4 applications and invited candidates to interview. In light of changing online meeting platforms, the committee asked to change the wording of the Board Membership policy, paragraph three from "Zoom" to "online systems". A copy of the policy with changes highlighted was shared with the Board.

**Emergency Item:**

Will Bingham motioned to add the 1.4 Board Membership policy as an emergency item, Emily Lastowski seconded; all approved.

Dana Maggard motioned to approve 1.4. Board Membership as presented; Will Bingham seconded; all approved.

6.4 **SAC - Preschool Presentation**

Victoria Sutton, Preschool Director, and her team presented a slideshow explaining how the team guides the students to become great learners. Mrs. Sutton went over the requirements of what classes and amount of hours of training and background checks each employee has to have in order to work as a preschool teacher or instructional assistant.

Mr. Polk shared that this year all IAs are required to take 8 courses of which 4 are pre-selected and 4 are self picks. They further can pick as many of the 100+ courses of their choice at no cost. The preschool falls under the Florida Department of Children and Families.

7. **Consent Agenda - None**

8. **Old Business - None**

9. **New Business**

9.1. **Annual Audit - King & Walker, CPAs, PL Certified Public Accountants**

Bob Walker reported that there are no findings in the financial statements. Revenue over expenses is \$173,000.00 net income. Most excess revenue is in cash. He reported that all revenue and assets are in general funds. This is a clean opinion report without any finding.!

9.2. **Second Amendment to the Charter School Contract**

Mr. Polk explained that the second amendment to our charter contract was written by the district attorney with information we supplied. Will Bingham signed the amendment so it could be presented to the Pasco School Board for approval.

Earl Sturworld motioned to accepted 9.1 Annual Audit - King & Walker and 9.2 Second Amendment to the Charter School Contract as presented; Rutland Bussey seconded; all approved

**9.3. Search and Seizure Policy**

Dan Dwyer reported that under Florida Statute 1006.09 we are required to have a Search and Seizure policy. Mr. Dwyer noted that the Pasco County Schools policy was used in drafting our policy.

The Board discussed changes, pg. 1 3rd paragraph scratch "with prior notice"; pg. 2 3rd paragraph change "such" to "either instance" and add language that always 2 people will be present when a search takes place. Also add to contact parent/guardian within a reasonable time of the search.

Ryan Brady motioned to approve the Search and Seizure Policy with changes discussed; Dana Maggard seconded; all approved.

**9.4. 2023-2024 Academy at the Farm Student Calendar - Update**

Dana Maggard motioned to accept the change to our school calendar as presented; Emily Lastowski seconded; all approved.

**9.5. Board Resignation Letter - Lee Maggard**

Chairman Suzanne Larkin asked for somebody to step forward to serve as Secretary in Lee's place.

**Emergency Item**

Dana Maggard made the motion to declare the Board secretary position as an emergency item; Will Bingham seconded; all approved

Janay Rouser motioned to nominate Emily Lastowski as Board secretary; Will Bingham seconded; all approved.

**9.6. Board Governance Training Renewal - Earl Sturwold - Information Only**

**10. Individual Board Member Reports/Inquiry (Non-Agenda Items)**

The back to school bash was a great event bringing family and students together.

Ray reported that we added 80 students this year and the school year has started well.

Ryan Brady offered to help on any committee that needed help. Mr. Brady congratulated the staff for opening the school year well.

**11. Faculty/Staff Inquiry (Non-Agenda Items)**

11.1. FFA Members shared that they are planning to have member(s) attend the monthly board meetings and answer any questions the Board or public may have. Robin Carter shared that 10 students went to the FFA Convention and scored in the top 5 FFA chapters in the nation. In preparation for the national selection, we are holding an audition on September 6 at 3:00 pm at the school to select the FFA member that will represent our school nationally on September 26, 2023. The members will have to do a 15 minute presentation to a panel of judges. The board congratulated Robin Carter and the FFA members for a job well done.

11.2. Lori Gauttier shared that MS will start a "Think Kindness Campaign". It will start with a Team Leadership Meeting with Brian Williams coming to speak to our middle school students on September 12th to present 5000 acts of kindness challenge in 15 days.

**12. Friends of the Academy - PTO General Meeting**

**12.1. Financials**

Kacee Fagan reported that we received sponsorship money for the Mustang Ball. She thanked all the volunteers that came out and helped at the "Back to School Bash", the largest of its kind, a total success!

Aug 24 - PTO Meeting with speaker that presents tips and ticks on parenting

Sep 7th and Oct 5 Al's Pizza Spirit Night. 10% of the proceeds will come back to PTO

Oct 27 - Trunk or Treat

Mrs. Fagan introduced a "Tumbler" as a PTO fundraiser. The price is \$25.00 each and will have the students name on it.

**Emergency Item**

Emily Lastowski motioned to accept the tumbler as an emergency item; Will Bingham seconded; Janay Rouser motioned to accept the tumbler as a PTO fundraiser; Dana Maggard seconded; all approved.

13. Date of Next Meeting  
13.1. BOD 09-18-23

14. Upcoming Events  
8-22 - Open House  
8-24 - Ways & Means Committee Meeting 8:00 am  
8-24 - AATF Market Meeting 9:00 am  
8-24 - PTO General Meeting 6:30 pm  
8-30 - Expansion Meeting 8:00 am  
8-31 - Travel Club Meeting 6:00 pm  
9-4 - No School - Labor Day  
9-6+7 - 4th Grade Field Trip - Crystal Springs  
9-13 - Mustang Ball Committee Meeting 8:00 am  
9-15 - Progress Reports  
9-18 - Grands Club General Meeting 8:30 am

Marcia Dwyer shared a note from a parent about how good it is to follow the character traits.

15. Meeting Adjourned  
Janay Rouser made a motion to adjourn at 6:54 pm, all approved.

Minutes submitted by:



Emily Lastowski, Secretary

Date: