

AATF Board of Directors Minutes

March 24, 2025

Location: In-Person and Virtual via Zoom

1. Call to Order - Will Bingham called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
2. Roll Call - Suzanne Larkin

	May 28 Special	Jun 6 Special	Jun 17	Jul 15	Aug 19	Sept 16	Oct 21	Nov 18	Dec 16	Jan 27	Feb 24	Mar 24
Larkin, Suzanne	X	Zoom	X	Absent	X	X	X	x	X	X	X	zoom
Bingham, Will	X	Absent	X	X	X	X	X	x	X	X	X	X
Rouser, Janay	Absent	X	X	X	X	Absent	X	x	X	X	X	X
Lastowski, Emily	Absent	X	Zoom	X	X	X	X	x	zoom	X	X	X
Maggard, Dana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	x	absent t	X	X	X
Bussey, Rutland	X	X	X	Zoom	X	X	X	x	X	X	X	X
Brady, Ryan	x	Zoom	X	Zoom	X	X	X	x	X	X	X	X
Douthard, Sean	Zoom	X	X	X	X	Zoom	X	x	X	Zoom	X	absent

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
4. Public Inquiry

Millie Esoff - PE Coach Millie shared her concerns over renting property and lack of transparency that the board has had with terminating her lease. Millie's letter attached.

Linda Forrester , Plant Manager-Expressed her concerns the effects of losing the rental property and the storage that we use the property for. James lives on campus and we call him all the time to fix things immediately and all hours of the night. Linda feels we save money by having someone on call on campus.

James Todd from Maintenance inquired whether the rental properties are generating revenue or if they are operating at a loss. He mentioned a conversation with the Fire Marshal, noting that several schools maintain on-site personnel for security and issue management. James recommended retaining the apartment and storage shed instead of demolishing them, as a cost-saving measure.

5. Minutes of Board Meeting 2-24-25

6.2.4. High School updates

We have 28 confirmed 8th grade students participating in AATF. Currently, there are 71 students entered into the 9th grade lottery.

Emily Lastowski Motion to approve, Ryan Brady second, All Approve.

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Financial Report

Rutland Bussey review of Financial Report

According to Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2025 \$1,224,583.71 in checking and savings

Total Assets \$10,210,199.24

Total Income for High School \$10,051,992.92

Total Expenses for High School \$10,901,333.76

Total Liabilities \$5,395,114.24

Emily Lastowski motion to approve financials, Ryan Brady second, All approve.

6.1.1. Audit Committee

The Finance Committee aims to maintain best practices. In Florida, there are five auditors who specialize in working with Charter Schools. The Committee will prepare a request for proposals.

The Finance Committee is recommending an audit committee. The Audit Committee can not include any employees. Rutland Bussey has recommended Madison Nauyokas to serve on the committee.

Dan Dwyer mentioned that Florida Statute 218.391 requires an audit committee to review the financials annually. The committee must consist of three members, with at least one being a board member. The director and other employees cannot be voting members in the selection of the auditor, though they may serve in an advisory role. The statute also outlines specific procedures for drafting the proposal to the audit committee and selecting the auditor.

Dana Maggard makes a motion to form an audit committee, Ryan Brady second, All Approve.

Dan Dwyer stated step two of the committee is whoever is willing to sit on the audit committee needs to digest the statute and adhere to the requirements. There is a minimum of three members. As of right now the members are: Chair Rutland Bussey, Madison Nauyokas, Dana Maggard, Emily Lastowski. Rutland Bussey will reach out to anyone else from the outside that may be interested in joining the committee. Dan Dwyer recommends an odd number. Dana Maggard recommends another outsider.

The audit's committee review standards are within the statute. The audit review will start after the school year ends, July 1, 2025.

Dana Maggard makes a motion to make a committee for the Audit Committee to consist of the Chair Rutland Bussey, Dana Maggard, Emily Lastowski, and Madison Nauyokas and potentially a fifth or anyone else that would like to join. Ryan Brady second. All Approve.

6.2. Expansion Committee

6.2.1 Rental Property - Will Bingham

Will Bingham stated we have leases on the house and apartment that are in place that are expiring. The board is not demolishing the buildings as of now.

Emily Lastowski has asked why is this a votable item when it was not a votable item at the start of the lease. Emily has asked why we are voting when we don't have more information about the leases. Emily feels there are so many unknowns prior to her voting and doesn't feel comfortable.

Dana Maggard is asking where this concept originates from and what is the reasoning behind it. Dana would like to know why this has come up.

Dan Dwyer stated that the leases were created June 2024 and naturally terminated in May 2025. The hope was to get the word to Millie and James prior to termination to give them plenty of time to move.

Will Bingham stated now we have a high school. Now these two buildings are a part of the parcel that will be completed.

Dan Dwyer recommended part of the information gathering should be a state inspection. This inspection needs to be done on a yearly basis from a third party.

Will Bingham said there is an option to keep the buildings but he does not believe keeping the tenants is an option considering it sits on a school campus

Janay Rouser would like us to keep the buildings and the tenants. She feels like it is beneficial to the school and safety.

Emily Lastowski feels like a lot of information was brought up and would like to review the leases.

Ryan Brady stated 87 schools in the area do not have people living on campus. His concern is the buildings need repairs, and what is the cost of repairs and the liability.

The revenue for the house and the apartment is \$24,000 a year and we do pay insurance on both properties.

Suzanne Larkin agrees with Ryan Brady and the liability. Suzanne and Ryan both feel like the tenants have both been wonderful tenants. She feels that to make an accurate decision to exclude the properties we would need legal guidance. She recommends we allow a month's rental until a decision is made.

Will Bingham stated the discussion is tabled until next month: The next steps are to get a price on an inspection, the cost of fencing, and offer a 30 day extension one month at a time.

To repurpose the buildings they would need another type of inspection and too many upgrades.

Will Bingham has asked Dina Bardin to arrange the inspections on both parcels.

Will Bingham will get the cost of fencing from the contractor. The price of demolition will increase when the High School is completed and the contractor is moved off site.

Rutland Bussey makes a motion to get residential home inspections of the two rental properties, Ryan Brady second, All Approve.

Ryan Brady made a motion to table this item to old business in next month's meeting, Dana Maggard second, All Approve.

6.2.2 High School Update-Dr. Michellea Millis-Rucker

Twenty-eight AATF 8th graders confirmed for 9th grade. Seventy-one have entered the AATF Lottery.

Our estimated enrollment for the high school is 100 students.

Rutland Bussey enjoyed the high school presentation and would like to see more of these to gain more students.

Dana Maggard would like to notify the students right away that the 9th graders have been admitted to capture them.

6.3. SAC Committee-6th Grade Presentation

7. Consent Agenda - None

8. Old Business - None

9. New Business

9.1. Conflict of Interest for Management Team

Dan Dwyer was asked to create the form for anyone that has access to purchasing power, credit cards, or bids.

Emily Lastowski asked who will review the forms. Dan Dwyer indicated that the Director will be reviewing the management team.

Suzanne Larkin, Board of Directors Chair will be reviewing the BOD conflict of interest forms.

Dana Maggard motion to approve 9.1 with the addition of the approval signature of the Director, Ryan Brady second, All approve.

9.2. Board of Director Officers-discussion

Chair	Suzanne Larkin
President	Will Bingham
Vice President	Janay Rouser
Treasurer	Rutland Bussey
Secretary	Emily Lastowski

Suzanne Larkin has reached out to each person to see if they want to stay in their current position. If anyone wants to run for a position please let the Chairperson know for next month's meeting.

9.3. Role of Board of Directors-discussion

During the absence of the full time Director the BOD was tasked with different items to help run the school. Will Bingham has asked Dan Dwyer to go over the roles.

Dan Dwyer reminded everyone that they have gone through training. The BOD is here to create policies. It is the staff's job to make sure the policies are carried out.

Dan Dwyer reminded the BOD of the sunshine law. Dan asked the BOD to communicate everything through Director Josh Borders.

Will Bingham clarified the Parent Liaison is Suzanne Larkin. The first step is the teacher. The second step is the Principal. The third step is the Director. The final step is Chair Larkin. If the issue does not get resolved then it would go to the Pasco County School District.

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

Will Bingham asked Mr. Borders how his first few days have been going? Mr. Borders said it has gone well and feels like he is getting out in the classrooms more. He has 1-on-1 meetings coming up and looking forward to gaining more knowledge.

Emily Lastowski congratulated everyone on making it to the fourth quarter.

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

Victoria Sutton wants to recognize her team for being a High Performing Preschool Again!

Kathy Hobby gave a shout out to AATF's specials team! They all helped Hannah's concert come together. Millies' field day was a success. Gail's art show coming up takes all of them coming together.

Dr. Rucker stated she hired the final high school teacher and she started today.

12. Friends of the Academy

12.1. Financials

Kacee Fagan reported on financials.

For the month of March, PTO income is coming in from the Clay Shoot.

PTO and Grands bringing lunch on Wednesday for everyone.

The Golf Tournament is coming up on May 6, 2025.

Teacher Appreciation plans underway for the week in May.

13. Date of Next Meeting

13.1. BOD 3-24-2025 at 5:30PM

14. Upcoming Events

3/28 Lottery Drawing 8:00 AM

3/29 Clay Shoot 2:00 PM

4/1-4/4 Kagan Training all Teachers and IAs

4/7-4/11 Book Fair

15.. Meeting Adjournment

Janay Rouser made a motion to adjourn at 7:39pm; All approved.

Minutes submitted by: 

Date: 5/19/2025