

**AMIKids Maritime Academy**  
**Emergency Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**January 12, 2024, at 8:30 am**

**200 E Beach Dr. Panama City, FL 32401**

An emergency meeting of the Governing Board of AMIKids Maritime Academy was held on January 12, 2024, at 8:30 am, at 200 E Beach Dr, Panama City, FL 32401.

Notice of the meeting was posted to the public via posting on the front door of the school.

Board members present: Lavoy Anderson, Virginia White, Eve VanKley and Cecile Scoon. Ms. White and Ms. Scoon were present via Teams.

Also present, Jamie Vickers Principal, Issac Williams from the AMIKids home office via Teams, and Parent council members.

Motion requested to approve the agenda. Motion made by Ms. VanKley and seconded by Ms. White to approve the agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

**Public Comment**

None

**Board Action Items**

**Appointment of Attorney Contract** – On a motion of Ms. Scoon and seconded by Ms. VanKley, to approve the appointment of the attorney contract.

Ms. Scoon restated her request for a copy of Maritime Academy's Charter from Ms. Vickers which was resolved by Ms. Vickers' plan to send an electronic copy via email to Ms. Scoon. Mr. Anderson stated that he would aide in the request by sending a hard copy via courier if the file could not be received.

Ms. Scoon requested the date and time that Mr. Anderson sent a letter to AMI CEO, Mike Thornton, stating a request for a meeting. Ms. Vickers forwarded the letter, originally sent on January 12, 2024, via email to the other board members, and resent a copy during the board meeting. Mr. Anderson stated that Mr. Thornton's response was that other board meetings needed to occur first to make decisions prior to the decision on Maritime workshop. Ms. Scoon and Ms. Vicker were in agreement that a meeting needs to occur but has not been scheduled.

Ms. Scoon stated that the information for the Tripp Attorneys had only been communicated a few days prior to the meeting. Mr. Anderson built on Ms. Scoon's statement by iterating the importance of the appointment of an attorney to represent the Board and Maritime Academy.

Mr. Anderson conversed with Sean, lawyer appointed by AMI, wherein Mr. Anderson asked if the Board and Maritime Academy should get their own representative as Sean was not our lawyer but works for AMI to which Sean agreed.

Discussion of the attorney contract's specifications prompted by Ms. Scoon stated that "general legal work" was too broad a statement and that it needed to be narrowed down to work only prompted by the Board members as to alleviate hourly rate complications. Mr. Anderson stated that Mr. Tripp was recommended by a Charter Support Group. Scoon proposed an amendment to the prior motion to state that Tripp Scott Attorneys be hired to assist any potential conflict Maritime and any other organization with no legal work done unless directed by the Board of Directors for the guidance of school statutory compliances. The amendment to the motion was seconded by Ms. White. Motion passed 4-0. Mr. Anderson confirmed that the appointment of the attorney was to assist in conflict and council to run the charter school correctly and that the Board does not have to meet to ask Tripp Scott Attorneys questions. The point was made by Mr. Anderson that all the Board should be involved on these matters to stay informed. Ms. Scoon responded that we (the Board) may have to meet more often via emergency meetings if necessary as it is our (the Board's) professional duty. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion to adjourn at 8:59 am made by Ms. VanKley and seconded by Ms. White.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Ms. Scoon stated that she would like to reach out to Mr. Thornton as the Board was unclear on the problem with AMI. Ms. Scoon requested that Issac Williams from AMI reach out to Thornton to resolve the issues between the two sides. Mr. Williams claimed that Mike Thornton is aware of the issues from AMI's standpoint, but Ms. Scoon is requesting that we know what is not to their standards. Both Mr. Williams and Ms. Scoon made the statement that each side was unclear on where the issues originated, and a direct conversation needs to be had between the two entities. Mr. Williams stated that there were rumors that AMI was selling the building to which he stated that it was not their intention to sell the building as their position is to serve kids in the community.

During the discussion about the rumors, Mr. Williams received a call from Mr. Thornton. Mr. Williams spoke on his behalf and referenced the letter sent to Mike Thornton with the statement that the two sides were at an impasse. Mr. Anderson then spoke about the letter in which he stated that he sent the letter to address the funds that AMI took out of the checking account without authorization from the Board or charter school principal. Mr. Anderson said that he used the term impasse currently, but in the same sentence said he was looking to work through the issue through a meeting. Ms. Scoon explained the legal definition of "impasse" which then prompted the conversation that the attorney being hired could aid in terminology.

Ms. Scoon confirmed receipt of Mr. Anderson's letter to Mike Thornton on December 5, 2023. The board agreed that the hope now is to hold a meeting with Mr. Thornton to discuss both sides and fix any issues.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kylie Giovinco

Data Clerk

Maritime Academy

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