

**AMIKids Maritime Academy**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**December 19, 2023, at 3:30 pm**  
**200 E Beach Dr. Panama City, FL 32401**

A regular meeting of the Governing Board of AMIKids Maritime Academy was held on December 19, 2023, at 3:30 pm, at 200 E Beach Dr, Panama City, FL 32401.

Notice of the meeting was posted on social media and on the front door of the school.

Board members present: Lavoy Anderson, Virginia White, and Eve VanKley. Cecile Scoon arrived at 3:39 pm.

Also present, Jamie Vickers Principal, Gwendolyn Hamilton from the AMIKids home office via Teams, Issac Williams from AMIKids home office, Maritime teachers: Alicia Gainer and January Sellers (Parent Liaison).

Motion requested to approve the agenda. Motion made by Ms. White and second by Ms. VanKley to approve agenda with addition of Beta Club trip in January. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion to approve the minutes from October 19, 2023, as presented made by Ms. Vankley and seconded by Ms. White. Motion carried 3-0.

### **School Progress Report**

Principal Vickers stated the report from the Charter Support Unit will be available for the board in January. Financial audit is under review. School grades have been received from the Department of Education and Maritime is a B+. The State of Florida changed the cut scores for achievement levels this past summer from 62% to 70% for a school to receive an A ranking. Maritime was ranked second in the county of true high schools. Ms. Vickers may appeal the grade and is going over the percentages with Bay District personnel to verify the data. Bay District will send the calculation to the state if an error is found by January 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Vickers is hopeful that the grade will be reflected as an A. Ms. Vickers thanked all the parental involvement at Maritime reflected by participation in parades, donations of food items for student Thanksgiving event, Wreaths Across America and upcoming Christmas Brunch. January 10 through the 19<sup>th</sup> will be Freedom 180. January 11<sup>th</sup> will be the recruiting open house for new students. Currently 27 applicants for 9<sup>th</sup> graders for the upcoming year, 3 applicants for 10<sup>th</sup> and 3 applicants for 11<sup>th</sup>. Current enrollment is 96 students. 25% ESE, 24% free or reduced lunch, 32% low level learners in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and 58% low level learners in 9<sup>th</sup> grade according to the fall testing scores. 19% minority (defined as African American, Hispanic or Asian per Focus). Ms. Scoon would like to know the African American ratio of Bay District students. Ms. Scoon discussed brining in African Americans, such as a choir group she is in contact with, who used the facility in the past. Ms. Scoon stated some of the choir participants showed an interest in attending Maritime previously. Ms. Scoon would like to see more effort in recruiting different communities to this environment. Board members discussed going into low-income areas of town to recruit students. Ms. Vankley and Ms. Scoon would like to take on that task but are concerned over violation of Sunshine Law. Ms. Vickers would be happy to recruit students

at the direction of the board. Mr. Anderson reminded all that the school board does not control who uses the facility. Mr. Anderson stated the mission statement changed about two years ago and was adopted in the application to Bay District Schools, there was a change due to issues with DJJ, no kids are ruled out from attending. Ms. Vankley stated that January 11 was a great opportunity for all kids to come to the open house. Parent Lisa McLaughlin suggested that a marketing committee be created to expose other students to the school. Ms. Vickers stated that the choir students were not able to use the facilities in the past summer due to construction on the classrooms prior to the start of the school year. Ms. Vickers stated that AMIkids has terminated the contract as the Educational Support Program (ESP) for Maritime Academy, a 90-day notice has been issued. Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Williams to speak about the reasoning behind the decision. Mr. Williams stated that he does not have the authority to speak about the reasoning behind the decision. Mr. Anderson stated that some struggles have been occurring such as the DJJ format and conflicting with a public school, compliance issues and audit issues. Mr. Anderson stated the letter received was very clear that the termination of the ESP will not affect the students. Ms. McLaughlin stated that parents will be concerned about moving if the building is owned by PCMI and not Maritime Academy. Mr. Anderson would like to discuss the future of Maritime Academy with Mr. Thornton and Mr. Golden at the next board meeting in January. Mr. Williams stated a list of questions could be presented and answered at the next board meeting. Ms. Scoon stated she was not knowledgeable about the letter received terminating the ESP contract, Mr. Anderson stated the letter was emailed to her 3-4 weeks ago. Mr. Anderson would like to have a board meeting to gather concerns before speaking with Mr. Thornton and Mr. Golden. Mr. Williams voiced concern over the tone of compliance issue discussed. Mr. Anderson stated that it is a format issue in compliance with the state. Ms. Scoon stated that this would be a board decision and not an individual's decision on how to proceed. Ms. Vickers stated that the ESP typically is a support system, handles payroll, HR, marketing and sometimes curriculum. Mr. Anderson stated the termination letter stated the lease will be honored, would like a smooth transition, the board can accept the 90-day termination or ask for a resolution. Mr. Thornton requested dates to meet in emails from Mr. Anderson. Mr. Anderson is concerned about the best interests of the families. Ms. Scoon requested a special meeting to meet with the AMIkids representatives, may need an executive session. Mr. Anderson feels that Ms. Vickers can relay the information from any meeting he has with the home office to the other board members. Mr. Williams read a letter sent from Mr. Thornton to Maritime Board Members, stating that putting children first is the core of the organization, and the board of directors should be on board with that vision and the primary objective is to rebuild the board and make a difference in impact and work. Mr. Anderson is hopeful that an agreement can be reached while public school charter standards are kept in place.

### **Financial Report**

Ms. Vickers handed out the budget to actual spending to the board members. Discussion that only the district revenues are showing and not the inkind funding such as the lease agreement. Mr. Anderson stated the \$384,000 shown in the negative is possibly the inkind lease agreement and not reflected in budget. Ms. Scoon voiced that inkind figures may need to be requested to be entered on budget. Ms. Vickers is working with the home office to clear up data. Mr. Williams stated the actual cost to run the charter school is being reflected in these figures. Ms. Scoon feels a third party may be needed to clear up any confusion in figures. Mr. Anderson stated that the yearly audit is being completed by Carr Riggs and Ingram, there is an extension for submittal as it was only received by the board four hours before the deadline. Ms. Vickers will send a copy of the audit to all board members.

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Board Action Items**

**Attorney Contract** – On a motion of Ms. White and seconded by Ms. Vankley, to solicit Maritime Academy own attorney. Motion passed 4-0 after discussion regarding Jeff Woods as a recommendation from the Charter Support Unit, as a choice for hiring. Ms. Vickers will contact Mr. Woods to meet with the board at the next meeting.

**Salary Increase** – Mr. Anderson stated that he spoke with Mr. Heyward two months ago about giving a raise to Principal Vickers. Ms. Scoon requested Ms. Vickers leave the room during the discussion. Mr. Anderson stated that Ms. Vickers currently receives \$75,000 per year and is about \$12,000 per year below the district average based on current enrollment. Ms. Scoon questioned where the money would come from, Mr. Anderson stated it is in the budget due to additional students enrolling. On a motion of Ms. Scoon based on duty and performance based on discussion to bring salary in line with other schools, a \$12,000 raise effective now, motion was seconded by Ms. Vankley. Motion passed 4-0.

**\$500 Stipend for Ms. January Sellers and Alicia G Gainer for coordinator designation** – Ms. Vickers explained that Ms. Sellers and Ms. Gainer were taking on additional duties; Ms. Gainer in CTE classes and Ms. Sellers in threat assessment compliance. Ms. Vankley made a motion to allow the \$500 stipend for Ms. Gainer and Ms. Sellers for the spring 2024 for coordinator designations, seconded by Ms. White. Motion passed 4-0.

**Beta Club Travel** – Ms. Gainer will be taking the Beta Club on an out of town fieldtrip to Orlando in January, requesting board approval. Motion made by Ms. Vankley to approve the Beta Club trip to Universal for the Beta Club competition, seconded by Ms. White. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion to adjourn at 5:14 pm made by Ms. Vankley and seconded by Ms. White. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jami Hinrichs

Data Clerk

Maritime Academy