



AMIKIDS MARITIME ACADEMY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 11, 2026 @ 3:00 pm Central Time
Meeting held in-person

The Board meeting of AMIKids Maritime Academy was called to order at 3:00pm CST by Board Chair O.B. Stander. The meeting brought together board members, OB Stander, Dr. Janine Walker Caffrey, Jim Looker, school leaders Principal Lauren Chapman, and Rebecca Edmond, Sr. Director of Education and Workforce Development Services. Also in attendance: CEO Mike Thornton, CFO Maria DP, Board Liaison, Wendall Watson.

Agenda Updates and Approval

No updates made to the agenda.

The agenda was unanimously approved following a motion by Jim Looker and second by Dr. Walker-Caffrey.

Public Comment

Public Comment was opened up. No one in person or online spoke.

School Progress Report and Academic Updates

Principal Lauren Chapman presented the school progress report with the following information:

ENROLLMENT

- School Enrollment stands at 60 students
- Projected enrollment for 26-27SY stands at 68

RECRUITMENT

Lauren reported that several events were scheduled in April- June to promote recruitment:

- Manned a table at Earl Gilbert Park for Community Event (4/25)
- Iron Man Station 4 was manned by Maritime Students/ Sea Cadets (5/9)
- Play it Forward community event for sports equipment give away at A.L Kinsaul park scheduled (6/6)

Jim Looker made comment about working with Middle schools in Bay District Schools to recruit 9th grade. Discussion was had by members and suggestion to reach out to middle school counselors to recruit students that may thrive in our school environment was made. Lauren agreed to reach out to school counselors in Bay District Schools. Concern was that 9th grade enrollment should be the highest number of enrollees for next school year. OB clarified that the target number of students for 26-27 school year had to be 100.

Dr. Walker-Caffrey suggested looking at over age 7th graders and getting them promoted to 9th grade with support so they could attend our school. Lauren agreed to look into that.

GRADUATION

Senior Graduation scheduled for tonight at 6:00pm and the address was given so all could be in attendance.

FUNDRAISERS

Lauren reported that Friday 5/15 there was a school fundraiser scheduled for the school at 810 Bowling and Billiards. The Parrot Head Club had chosen Maritime Academy for their May charity event. The event will be from 5-8pm and all proceeds will be donated to our school.

STATE TESTING

Lauren shared the state testing schedule with the board. May 13-14th PM3 testing for 9-10th grade; May 19th Algebra EOC testing; May 20th US History EOC; May 21st EOC/PM3 Make up Testing Day

PR UPDATE

Lauren shared that the school contract with SchoolMint was active until August but that all allocated funding for social media campaigning had been exhausted. The board. Discussion was held about not extending the contract beyond August with SchoolMint.

OB asked Rebecca and Lauren to work with in house team of Marketing/Communication to create our own social media campaigns. Rebecca agreed to work with Lauren Armstrong, Roz Wergin and the Marketing Team to create the needed advertising.

Rebecca asked Lauren if she had access to the school facebook account. Lauren said not yet and Rebecca told her who to contact to gain access to the school social media accounts.

Lauren Shared that AquaTect, Maritime Academy and Franklin's Promise Coalition were partnering to host an event on school campus: Seagrass Restoration Project
April 19-21. Media information has been sent to marketing by Lauren/Jorge to highlight the event.

STAFFING PROJECTIONS

Lauren shared that there is an 80% staff retention rate. Vacancies for 2026-2027 were

- *Dean of Students

- *School Resource Officer (provided by police department)

- *Business Manager

CSP GRANT UPDATE (provided by Rebecca Edmond)

Rebecca shared that she, Vicki and Sabrina would be working on the CSP grant next week as their focus item. The goal being that all money is drawn down by June 17th to have grant spent by June 30th deadline.

CURRICULUM INTERVENTION REPORT

Lauren reported that all interventions were EOC/ PM3 prep in focus. All students had a clear (one page) path to graduation mapped out. Dr. Walker-Caffrey confirmed that the one page plans were completed and satisfactory to support success for all students.

OB mentioned that there was an item that needed to be added to the school leader report to be in compliance with the school district's action plan items:

*section to be added to the School Leader's report to address the following areas:

- Failing Academic Grades

- Behavior Concerns

- Chronic Absenteeism

- Enrollment

- Financial Matters

Rebecca stated that the School Leader Board Report Template would be amended to include these categories so that it would be reported per the Bay District School Board's requirement.

The board expressed that they were satisfied with academic preparation and had no other questions from this report.

Board Treasurer Report

Jim stated that with only 66 students projected for next school year we would still be losing money. He stated that he did not see any expenses that could be cut any further and that staffing allocated was required for upcoming school year, up to 100 kids.

The board thanked CEO Mike Thornton for the in-kind donation from AMIkids home office to eliminate the debt, which in turn, satisfied the Bay District School Board to renew the charter contract for 5 years.

Jim reported there were still some fluctuations in the financials with that coming in and some of the other assets moving around. As of the end of April, we ended up with positive net assets of 199,000.

Maria PD added additional explanation on why there would be positive net assets and how that would resolve by June 30. Board discussed and asked clarifying questions and were satisfied with answers.

Lauren shared that she is applying for the YASS Prize. The application is due June 1, 2026 and the grand prize awarded is \$1M. There are also five \$100,000 prizes that will be awarded. She shared that Dr. Walker-Caffrey has agreed to assist with this grant application.

Dr. Walker-Caffrey stated it was unrestricted money- that you were able to narrate what you wanted to spend it on and it was paid to recipient in lump sum. OB asked how long we had to spend it if received. Dr. Walker-Caffrey stated she did not think there was a time limit to spend. She also stated there were smaller prizes in addition to the grand prize and that the other important part of being a grant recipient was that there was a network of people to learn from and collaborate with in this work. She shared an AMI person from St. Pete at Pinellas Marine Institute won the prize a few years ago, and then started their own marine program. Mike Thornton confirmed.

Board Member Confirmation

OB asked Jeremy what his status was on his background check and Jeremy stated he was completely done with the

process and that his badge was being mailed to him. Jeremy had receipts showing background check and fingerprinting were completed. OB called for a motion to confirm Jeremy Moore as new board member. Dr. Walker-Caffrey made a motion to add Jeremy Moore to the board. A second was made by Jim Looker. The board collectively thanked Jeremy for joining the board.

OB reminded the board that one more community person (strong in fundraising and community networking) was still needed.

2025 Policy Update Requests

The first policy discussed was the student cell phone policy. Lauren made the request to change the wording from allowing students to keep cell phones in backpacks and lockers to having them turn phones in to the office. The board and Mike Thornton had input. Discussion was had. Cell phone storage was discussed (pros/cons of snap tight bags, locker system etc.

Rebecca read the current statute “during instructional time, devices must be silenced and put away unless explicitly approved by a teacher for educational use. During non-instructional time, administration can designate if students can use wireless devices during lunch and passing periods”. That's for high school. The statute is very specific per grade level now, since July 1st, 2025 There was no apparent conflict with the statute but the behavior plan that would need to be in place for noncompliance was discussed next. After discussion it was decided to table the discussion. It was suggested a change in school culture would be the first step in the process. Storage solution would be price sourced to see what was available

The second policy wording change requested was the language in staff handbook regarding cell phones. Lauren requested a wording change because cell phones are used as communication tool on campus. There is a group chat that provides quick and quiet information to team in real time. The handbook currently states that staff cannot have cell phones and that works for most AMIkids establishments, but it does not work best for Maritime Academy.

After board discussion, a motion to vote on approval of new verbiage was made. It was seconded by Jim Looker. Vote was conducted and approved unanimously by board members.

Intercom/Video Surveillance

No updates at this time other than, it is being sourced. There was question as to whether matching funds grant had been submitted and who submitted it. The discussion ended with Lauren given the action item to follow up with Ron and engage Richard in discussion. The board recommended Maritime do the request for funding with the understanding that the cameras, once installed were a fixture to the building and would remain with the building. Then coordinate with Richard for installation. Mike confirmed that funding was still available through foundation. Discussion Tabled.

Annual Fraud Questionnaire

Must be presented yearly to board members.

*Is anybody aware of any related party transactions that occurred during this fiscal year, July 2025? Board members responded . Clarifying questions asked to ensure understanding. Once understood all board members answered

“NO”.

*Any anybody aware of any fraudulent employees dealings perpetrated against or by AMIkids or its affiliates by its employees or ex-employees? All board members answered “no”.

*Anybody aware of unusual activity on the part of AMIkids relating to financial statements or in recording of accounting entries? All board members answered “no”.

Budget Approval

Rebecca shared there are some edits and additions from our budget workshop that will need to be sent back to Devon. Rebecca stated that she had a meeting with Devon on Thursday and the plan is to have a revised budget to the board for review by Friday May 22. This will give board 2 weeks to review and approve final budget by deadline of June 8.

Janine asked if the formulaic budget would be provided. She wanted to know what level of detail would be provided in the google spreadsheet they would get granted access to by Maria DP. Rebecca confirmed they would see calculations requested. Rebecca clarified that the google spreadsheet was a template used to capture info that goes in the Questica system that AMIkids uses. All board members email addresses were collected by Rebecca to ensure access to the google spreadsheet was successful.

Dates for Future Board Meetings

The board decided on the following dates for 2026-2027 board meetings:

7/15/26 (Online Board Meeting)

11/5 (In Person Board Meeting)

1/21 (Online Board Meeting)

5/17 (In Person Board Meeting)

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 4:11pm CST