



AMIKIDS MARITIME ACADEMY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 17, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

200 E BEACH DR PANAMA CITY, FL 32401

A regular meeting of the Governing Board of AMIkids Maritime Academy was held on April 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm at 200 E Beach Dr Panama City FL 32401

Opening Session The meeting was called to order at 5:58 pm by O.B. Stander, Board Chair.

Attendance for the meeting:

Board Members Present: O.B. Stander, Dr. Janine Caffrey , and Jim Looker,

AMIkids Staff Present- Issac Williams , Dr. Sabrina Richards (via TEAMS) Mike Thornton (via TEAMS), Jessie Rigby (via TEAMS) Carolyn McBean, Maria Porto-Duarte, and Madeline Fulton,

Parent Liaison- Michelle Sain (absent)

Parent, Mrs. Benson was present with son William Marshall. Barbara Ramaow (guest of Mr. Looker)

Mrs. McBean confirmed that the notice of the meeting was posted on the website, social media, and at the school on March 17, 2025.

Dr. Caffrey made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Looker. Motion carried

Mr. Looker made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 9, 2025 board meeting. Motion was seconded by Dr. Caffrey. Motion carried.

Student Presentation

William Marshall, a 10th grader who is a first year student at Maritime Academy gave a presentation to the group about how he has benefited from being a student at the school. He spoke about his love for the school and all the hands-on learning. He went from being a “C” student at his last high school to an “A” student at Maritime Academy. He currently has a 3.8 GPA. William spoke about how he has ADHD and the hands-on learning keeps him engaged and interested in each class. He spoke on all the activities he is involved in in the school (scuba, captain of the Robotics Team) and the certifications he has earned since being at the school (open water lifeguard, First Aid/ CPR, OSHA, ServSafe). William enjoys the small class

sizes as it allows him to get more individual help when needed from the teachers. William lives in Port St. Joe and drives almost an hour to get to and from school each day.

Dr. Caffrey asked William's mom, Mrs. Benson, why they picked this school and she mentioned that she was looking for a school that would be more hands on learning to bring out the strengths of William's ADHD. A google search led her to AMIkids Maritime Academy.

Issiac spoke on how impressed he was with William and the rest of the group agreed.

After William and his mother left it was suggested that we try to get on a podcast to have William promote the school. Mrs. Madeline informed the group that our local college has its own radio station and allows for guest to come on and promote. We will look into this.

School Progress Report

We currently have 25 students enrolled in grades 9-11

McBean went over the Progress Monitoring chart she put together for the packet that was handed out. It shows that the PM2 scores went up an average of 15 points for 9th graders and an average increase of 9 points for 10th graders.

For the STARR testing it shows that students increased their reading scores by an average of 10 points which is an increase of 6 months. The students increased their math scores by an average of 35 points which is an increase of 1 year 1 month.

The first STARR test was given in August and this second test was given in February.

Our math tutor has been coming three times a week to help students and we can see the results of it in these tests. Our tutor, Mrs. Mary has also started math bootcamps to get students prepared to take the Algebra 1 and Geometry EOC's in May.

Dr. Caffrey asked why we have all students do STARR in February. DO we need to do STARR so often for students who are at or above grade level? DO we need to keep doing that if the state mandated PM tests are doing the same thing? Something to think about when planning out next year.

We currently have 24 students enrolled in FLVS classes.

-14 math

-5 Foreign Language

-5 other electives

All math students are passing with an 84% or higher. Four of the five students taking foreign language are passing with an 89% or higher. The one student who is not passing has been put on a progress plan and the parents have been contacted.

OB asked how many students would take FLVS next year. Since we have hired a math teacher, the plan is to only use FLVS for foreign language, personal fitness and an other electives that the students may want to take (i.e theater, digital design, drivers ed).

The group discussed other ways that students could get their personal fitness credit without doing it through FLVS. Students who play a varsity sport or are involved in JROTC programs (Sea Cadets and Civil Air Patrol for 2 years or more) are exempt from taking personal fitness and physical education courses. A fishing team and the sailing team would also count towards

this credit. Water Safety meets the physical education credit but does not meet the personal fitness credit. Dr. Richards is going to look into other courses that would meet this requirement as well.

We currently have 10 students enrolled in college courses. At this time all are passing.

New math teacher will be starting in August. She wanted to finish up the year with the students at her current school to get them through the Biology EOC. Her educational qualifications are math 6-12th grade and she is an oceanic engineer.

Our experimental education has been active this semester. Our school competed in its first underwater drone competition and did well for a first time team.

Our school hosted Crossroad Academy Charter School from Quincy Florida, on Friday April 4th for an Aerial Drone competition. Medals and trophies were given. We had over 60 students in the building and the students had a great time. We had a great meal together and are looking forward to hosting them again in the future including for Seaperch competitions.

Projections for enrollment for next year is at 43 confirmed students. We have done lots of tours lately and have seen an increase in community interest.

We were given a quote of \$32k for a PA system. McBean is currently working with AMIkids corporate on a more cost effective system instead. We are currently using handheld radios to communicate with each other which works for now.

We are doing our morning announcements each day using TEAMS in the classroom.

Hayward spoke with OB about unused scholarships that are within the AMIKids program. Our students at Maritime Academy are eligible to earn these scholarships to help offset their cost of college classes or tech school courses.

Curriculum Intervention Report:

Dr. Caffrey and McBean have talked about how to support the educational needs of the students and how we can anticipate the needs of the new students that will be starting in August. The plan is to seek school records from incoming students as soon as the PM3 scores are in in May. Students who didn't do well with be asked to come in to do a diagnostics screening. Dr. Caffrey has a simple tool that will be used to see where students at for math and reading.

We need to find out if the Discover Math Program includes assessments of new students prior to the start of school.

McBean is going to a budget meeting the third week of April to determine what our financial needs are and how to cover costs next year. There will be a deficit at the beginning of the year so the board will decide how to cover that come August.

Mr. Looker's friend made a very generous donation of almost brand new scuba gear to our SCUBA diving program.

Mr. Rigby reported on the lease. Construction of the building is covered by lease fees and the ½ cent sales tax. Dollar for dollar of the lease money will be used on the construction cost. There

is already \$38k of non-tag money that is allotted for construction cost that the PCMI board approved last year. This will cover the completion of the upstairs bathrooms and three classrooms.

Permitting process? What's the hold up? Since our permits have expired we in the process of applying for new permits. Mr. Rigby informed us that there is a PCMI board workshop to discuss the construction of the building. He will give us an update next week (week of April 14th). School board construction vendors are currently being looked at to see if they can finish up the construction upstairs.

2025/2026 calendar meets Florida education requirements. This includes 3 teacher workdays that can be used for storm days. Graduation date is set for May 13th. This will be Maritime Academy's first graduating class. This will also be the first graduation in the district next year. *OB- put this on your calendar.

Dr. Caffrey made a motion to approve the new school calendar. Mr. Looker seconded the motion. Approved by all.

Per state mandate, school will start next year at 0830. The team discussed creating a block Zero that would run from 0745-0820 for students who need intervention courses.

Dr. Ricards brought up that it would be great to start a plan of action for students immediately after PM3 scores are in.

Treasurer Report- Mr Looker

We are currently -\$383K. It is costing roughly \$65k a month to cover the cost of the school. We should be receiving another check from the district come May. We will also get money back for FLVS students and DE students who pass their courses. At this time it is projected that we will be -\$570K by the end of the school year.

Mrs. Porto-Duarte reports that AMIkids fully supports the Maritime Academy program and is ok with the cost. Mr Looker made a motioned to approve the \$570k loan to cover the cost of the school expenses and that we reevaluate the needs of the school if needed. Dr Caffrey seconded the motion. Motion carried by all.

Dr. Caffrey asked if their was a magic number of students enrolled that would keep us from continuing to be in the red. McBean said that 79 students is our break even number. With 79 students we wouldn't be able to pay back but we will be able to make expenses.

OB congratulated McBean on the progress that the school has made.

Dr. Caffrey asked about scheduling the next board meeting. Mrs. Porto-Duarte mentioned that we need the budget approved before the start of school, preferably before the end of June. This can be done virtually. It was agreed that the budget approval meeting will be on June 23rd at 2:00p.m central time via TEAMS.

We will have our two in person Board meetings for the year on Nov 6th (6p.m central) and May 2026 (before graduation).

Mrs. Madeline was asked to make a flyer for the upcoming meetings.

Mrs. McBean thanks the board for allowing her to glow and grow.

The board gave thanks all around.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion to adjourn the meeting by Dr. Caffrey and seconded by Mr. Looker, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Madeline Fulton