

Special Board Meeting-06/08/2026

43m 36s

Meeting called to order at 4:00 by Board Chairman, O.B. Stander

Roll Call

In attendance of this virtual meeting:

O.B. Stander, Board Chairman; Jim Looker, Board Treasurer; Dr. Janine Walker-Caffrey, Board Vice Chair; Jeremy Moore, Board member. Also in attendance were Lauren Chapman, Principal; Dr. Sara Geary, AMI Charter School Education Manager; Rebecca Edmond, Sr Director of Educ. & Workforce Development Svs

Chairman O.B. Stander asked for confirmation of public notice. Principal Lauren Chapman confirmed public notice posting on website and at the building site on June 1, 2026.

Chairman, O.B. Stander asked for approval of the agenda. Board Treasurer, Jim Looker, asked for amendment to current agenda prior to approval. He requested to add a discussion about School Sponsored Senior Trips to the agenda. Item added as 4C to the agenda. Dr. Janine Walker Caffrey moved to approve the agenda and Board Member Jeremy Moore seconded the motion. A board vote was taken and minutes were approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Dr. Janine Walker- Caffrey to approve the minutes of the last board meeting and Board Member Jeremy Moore seconded the motion. A board vote was taken and minutes passed unanimously.

The school progress report was delivered by Principal Lauren Chapman. Prior to beginning report, Chairman O.B. Stander asked if anything was different in report than what had been given two weeks ago. Principal Lauren Chapman just adjusted the enrollment number to the new count of 71.

Principal Lauren Chapman gave a staffing update of positions that open and in the interview process. Two positions (Dean of Students and Business Manager) have strong final candidates identified from interview process and the open ESE position remains open to interviewing.

Principal Chapman shared that the identified Dean of Students candidate has strong background in mental health counseling and behavioral instruction which would be a benefit to our students.

Chairman O.B. Stander asked if this candidate had a marine background, given the nature of our programming. He expressed concern over the fact that we do so much diving, boating and marine activities and no one in school leadership roles has marine experience. Staff members do have training, but not current leadership.

He continued to share that programming had been suspended by home office in prior year and that he did not want that to happen again, so students had access to full marine programming.

Dr. Sara Geary agreed that it was a valid concern. She did express that while it was highly unlikely to find a Dean of Students candidate that would come with marine readiness, that both the principal and the dean could receive specific training on the Standard Operating Procedures for marine events that AMIkids has in place. She iterated that this should be a priority.

Chairman O.B. Stander clarified he just wanted a leadership position in the building to have marine experience to add to the judgement oversight on student marine activities.

Dr. Geary suggested that for any deep dive or large-scale marine event that she, the principal or the dean be in attendance for added layer of safety.

Board Member, Jeremy Moore, asked if currently events were left up to the judgement of instructors or if written protocols were in place for safety and operation.

Rebecca Edmond, Sr. Director of Education and Workforce Dev. confirmed that there are written SOP's and that AMI has a detailed plan to implement when engaging in marine activities with youth. The plans take into consideration things like wind conditions, heat conditions, water conditions and sun protection and an array of other items to ensure safety. She suggested that moving forward when a marine activity happens on campus, the team members leading the event can check all the conditions and then a member of school leadership would do a second check to verify protocols and procedures are being followed by team.

Board Member, Jeremy Moore, requested a written copy of the AMIkids SOPs for marine events.

Rebecca Edward confirmed she would provide a copy.

Lauren Chapman next shared that the television ad created by WMBB Channel 13 was completed and aired this week on channel 13 and free streaming channels so there should be a wide audience and a potential uptick in enrollment.

Chairman O.B. Stander requested to be updated on the success of the ads in terms of enrollment numbers.

Dr. Janine Walker Caffrey wanted to discuss the attendance rates and incident rates for students. All grade levels had attendance between 85-88% and she stated that they should be in the 90% or higher range and there were 10 major incidents and 40 minor incidents for the year. The board members discussed being brought in earlier on incident awareness. It was

requested by board members for Principal Lauren Chapman to have a full plan to share at July meeting on how Alg. 1 scores and student average daily attendance will be improved for the upcoming school year.

Chairman O.B. Stander moved to the next agenda item which was public comment. No one signed up for public comment so he moved to the next item which was the board action topics.

First for discussion was the school calendar.

Dr. Janine Walker- Caffrey confirmed that the calendar met the required seat time and that the number of days for each semester was correctly calculated. She shared that she did not think that there were enough days built into the calendar for potential storm days. She suggested two more be added to the first semester, for a total of 4 for the year.

Dr. Sara Geary and Dr. Janine Walker- Caffrey suggested the additional days to be Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week.

Dr. Janine Walker- Caffrey made a motion to approve the calendar with the addition of two more storm days to be added to the calendar.

Board member Jim Looker seconded the motion. The board voted and the calendar unanimously passed.

Chairman O.B. Stander then turned the meeting over to Board Treasurer Jim Looker for a report on the 2026-2027 Annual Budget.

Mr. Looker reported that the revised budget shows the school receiving a donation of \$334,000 from AMI and that every student above the 75 count the budget is built on will decrease this amount.

Chairman O.B. Stander had a question about the revenue item detailing several staff members and their salary percentages that were showing in the category -not previously showing in the earlier draft of the budget.

Rebecca Edmond, Sr. Director of Education and Workforce Dev. explained that finance wanted to make sure that all the staff, regardless of their funding source, was placed under the Maritime Academy. And so previously, some of those positions and those allocations/ funding were coming from PCMI properties or the triumph grant or the tag money.

Discussion was had on particular staff listed and the teaching load each had to clarify how funding sources were being allotted for salaries.

Board member Jeremy Moore clarified that budget was built on 75 students as he reviewed all categories of the budget.

Chairman O.B. Stander asked about the “non-training travel” line item for \$19,000 and Rebecca Edmond, Sr. Director of Education and Workforce Development clarified it was for staff and student travel not related to training (field trips etc.) She did concur that it seemed high and committed to look in Questica with Devon to be sure the am, count was correct since there were no Challenge Events scheduled/ budgeted for the upcoming school year.

The last question raised about the budget was around the \$50,000 allocated for virtual/dual enrollment courses. Board discussed the significance of the cost. A majority of cost was reimbursable through the Triumph grant and so the reality of the cost for this programming was that we are just paying for Edmentum courses and courses through FLVS that we do not currently have in-house staffing to teach.

After all questions were answered, Treasurer Jim Looker made a motion to approve the budget -pending clarification on the \$19,000 non-training travel cost.

Board member Jeremy Moore seconded the motion. The board voted and unambiguously approved the budget for the 2026-2027 school year pending clarification of the \$19,000 non-training travel cost line item in the budget.

Chairman O.B. Stander moved to the final item of the agenda: the amended item of discussing the senior class trips. The board members discussed the details of the previous trip and expressed discomfort in the previous accounting for the last trip and the need for the school not to be financially sponsoring the trip. The board discussed liability concerns in sponsoring a trip where students travelled out of the state. Board Treasurer Jim Looker expressed that the school should not sponsor a senior trip, not be responsible for collecting the funds, nor dispersing the money. Dr. Janine Walker- Caffrey expressed that a senior trip is a high-risk event and should be something organized by parents outside of the school altogether.

The board discussed an alternative experience with tighter controls in place and the decision from the board. Rebecca Edmond, Sr. Director of Education and Workforce Development reminded the board that AMIkids organizes large trips with students and has protocols in place for such events.

Jim Looker, Board Treasurer made a motion that any trip taken by seniors that the school sponsored would be organized by the school, approved by both the board and through the AMIkids, Inc. student trip approval process, preferentially a marine or outdoor experience trip. The term thrown out as a Senior Capstone Experience. Dr. Caffrey Walker seconded the

motion. Discussions were held on potential places and when to have a potential trip costed out for participants so families could be informed early and plan for the expense. It was agreed to further discussion at the July board meeting.

Dr. Walker congratulated Lauren Chapman for completing the YASS grant application. Both Ms. Chapman and Dr. Caffrey were both thanked by the board for their efforts.

Jim Looker, Board Treasurer, made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Caffrey seconded that motion. Chairman O.B. Stander called the motion and the meeting ended.

