

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School

Board of Trustees Official Minutes

April 29, 2021

Board Members Present

Tom Hockensmith, Chair

Rose Thornberry, Vice Chair

Traci Elligson, Secretary

Jill Clinton

Ashley Reid

Missing

Diana Williams

Becky Uppercue, Board Treasurer

Others Present

Dr. Faye Pleso, CEO

Christine Fitzpatrick

Nicole Norris

Public

Jay Appleton, Greyhawk

Jason Officer, Parent

Derek Beckenbaugh

Call to Order

Tom Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm via Zoom call in accordance with PA state health guidelines during the COVID-19 crisis. All information regarding public access to the meeting was advertised in the [Gettysburg Times](#).

Public Comment on Agenda

None

Consent Agenda

Jill Clinton made motion to accept, Rose Thornberry seconded the motion.

Building Agenda

Jay Appleton, Greyhawk states construction is progressing well. Schedule was affected by weather but still on schedule. The budget for “hard construction costs” were impacted by the upgrades to the security system but we are still under the 10% contingency. General contractor will move forward with putting the ceilings in and painting the exterior. The HVAC including plumbing and water line, fire protection and sprinklers will take about 2 weeks to install. Any wish list items to come up may be accommodated by the contingency fund and will be addressed after contractors are done so as not to impact the deadlines.

Administrator’s Report

- Enrollment: Faye Pleso reported that current enrollment is 236. As of now the enrollment for 2021-2022 is 233 but we are still waiting for 31 more re-enrollment forms, full capacity is 285. Kindergarten will have a wait list, 1st has 4 open spaces, 2nd grade has 8 open spaces, 5th grade has 4 open spaces, and 6th grade has 8 open spaces.
- Hiring approval for School Counselor Tony Spack to start 4/19/2021 prorated salary of \$41K. Rose Thornberry made motion to accept, Jill Clinton seconded the motion.
- ESSR funds to help mitigate for Covid-19 include 3 rounds of federal funding. The 1st round is focused on equipment needed for students during virtual learning. The 2nd round focus on budget to help fill gaps during low enrollment. The 3rd round is to be focused on improvements through 2024 with 20% towards loss of learning or accelerate learning i.e., smartboards, more chrome books, extra cleaning for the school, Tier 2/3 mental health for students to assist with increased anxiety and depression, and outdoor learning spaces.
- Summer Options
 - Jason Officer asked if the children could keep the computers over the summer? Chris Fitzpatrick explained that the computers will need to be returned to the school for updates and virus protection upgrades and then will be returned to the students for the remainder of the summer.
 - Chris reviewed learning options to help review the year
 - Zearn math program has a 12 week summer course. The school is attempting to condense it to 8 weeks to be done for 30 minutes 4-5 days a week. Through Zearn the school is able to monitor the children’s learning.
 - Online reading program requiring 30 minutes per day 4-5 days a week
- Update to the Wellness policy. The wellness policy must be reviewed every 3 years. GMCS has already met all federal government requirements and were finalized in April 2021 and will be posted on the school website
 - Goals for the next 3 years ’21-’24

- Wellness teacher (previously PE Health teacher) to have additional training, and a nutritional toolbox
 - Partner with community organizations and programs promoting physical activity
 - Increase physical education classes and health classes together
 - Provide nutritional content to the school community for the school meals offered
 - Re-establish a school garden
 - Include health and nutrition into school announcements
- School Updates
 - Melissa Ring & family donated \$500 to the school library
 - Faye Pleso
 - Joined the Chamber of Commerce
 - Completed Superintendent training with certificate
 - Completed 45 hours of Continuing Ed for Admin II certificate

Helping Hands

- Nicole Norris informed the Board that the school raised \$375 from great support of parents sponsoring school Yetis (35 ordered)
- Next week is Staff Appreciation week with several events planned every day
- Yearbooks have been approved and will begin printing soon. The school made \$3 per yearbook with 75 ordered

Chair Report

- Trauma training due by May 1st
- Sofi forms are due by May 1st
- Act 55 due by June 1st
- Derek Beckenbaugh sworn in today to complete Ashley Reid's term
- Surveys to go out
 - [to parents with questions from Faye Pleso](#)
 - [to staff](#)

Finance

- Tom Hockensmith updated based on Finance meeting minutes
 - Charter Choices-request the Jesse attend Board meetings monthly or every other month, last attended was in January
 - Construction is staying close to budget and all invoices are covered
 - Draft of fiscal budget will be coming
 - Plans to replace PCA's due to increase in enrollment
 - Clinical Therapist
 - David Mitchell from Gettysburg, is also an Art Therapist. GMCS requested he make a proposal. Considering a 3 month trial contract

- ESS (Effective School Solutions)
- Thoughts to have Clinical Therapist work in conjunction with School Counselor for different Tiers and needs

Governance committee

- Vetting candidates with recommendations in May
- Vote on Derek Beckenbaugh, Ashley Reid made motion to accept, Rose Thornberry seconded the motion

New business: For the good of the order

- None

Public Comment

- None

Adjourned at 7:18pm