

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School

Board of Trustees Official Minutes

December 17, 2020

Board Members Present

Tom Hockensmith, Chair

Rose Thornberry, Vice Chair

Becky Uppercue, Board Treasurer

Traci Elligson, Secretary

Diana Williams

Diana Williams

Ashley Reid

Others Present

Dr. Faye Pleso, CEO

Christine Fitzpatrick

Jay Appleton, Greyhawk (teleconference)

Jason Officer, Parent

Executive Session

The Board met for an Executive session at 5:35 pm to discuss several employee-related matters, which if conducted in public would violate a lawful privilege or would lead to a disclosure of information confidentially protected by law. Dr. Pleso was invited to join the Board in the Executive session to discuss these matters. Executive session closed at 5:50 pm

Call to Order

Tom Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:01 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, Ashley Reid seconded the motion.

Building Agenda

Jay Appleton, Greyhawk discussed construction is moving along well. Foundation work has been completed and the under-slab utilities such as plumbing and drainage. They are ready to pour the floor slab, which has been delayed due to weather, working with ECI contractor to be done on Tuesday 12/22/2020. The delayed partition walls will be assembled in the trailer area and will await move in. Jay is pleased with ECI's work ethic and method and they are on schedule to move out of the modular before the summer.

Administrator's Report

- Enrollment: Faye Pleso reported that enrollment is up to 191 having 5 new students and 1 withdrawal. There have been 3 additional tours scheduled. Marketing has been helpful having used the billboard and 2nd mailings of post cards, and Google and Facebook advertising.
- Health and Wellness: there have been no positive cases of COVID with attributes to all of the precautions taken.
- Nicole Norris: organized picture day with Pictures-R-Us with money earned for the school so far resulting in \$1,464.95. Retakes are scheduled for January 13, 2021. [School store? I have something written about dropping the updated website based on GMCS online store homefield advantage?](#) Helping Hands Committee meetings to be held on the 2nd Tuesday at 6pm, flier will be sent out.

Chair Report

Newsletters are sent out quarterly and was last sent in 11/2020 and will be sent again at the end of January 2021. The Board will work on getting a blurb in the newsletter listing board member names, topics to be discussed and meeting dates. Jill and Ashley will work on January newsletter to be sent to Faye.

Finance

- The budget is doing well due a conservative tuition rate. Local Revenues are above budget by \$59,000 while personnel costs stay consistent. There have been decreased costs with benefit changes with teachers contracted services. With 191 students:
 - Teacher Assistant @ 30 hrs w/ Executive Assistant has deficit of \$5, 641.
 - Teacher Assistant @ 20 hrs w/ Executive Assistant has surplus of \$34, 124.
 - Can make up the difference with 1 or 2 students.
- Jesse Bean noted:
 - Charter schools are outperforming regular schools.
 - PSER rates to increase in '21-'22.
 - Cyberattacks is an increasing concern for Schools and nonprofits-we are encouraged to work with out IT team to help avoid these potential attacks.
 - CARES funding is still unused due to lack of agreement on how to use the money and may be delayed or denied to K-12 schools.

Governance committee

Meet on January 14th via Zoom at 5p and to follow throughout the year. Search for a teacher representative to replace Megan Stough, Faye and Christine will ask teachers for interest.

New business: For the good of the order

None

Public Comment

Jason-1st Helping Hands meeting and meeting with Faye for fundraising ideas

- Shoe fundraiser to start in January \$2500 goal +\$1k donation.
- Work with Ms. Swiger to create a '21 -'22 school calendar created using the children's art from end of year '20 -'21 .
- Potential 21/22 fundraiser is monthly movie night for families and possible one could be a date night for parents and can offer babysitters during movie night, will work with Nicole Norris

Add to next Board meeting agenda to follow the progress of Helping Hands and add section under New Business

Questions:

Jason-

- What determines the difference between the special education and regular student? Faye responded that special education students have IEP's.
- Will they have snow days this school year? Faye answered no

Traci-

- Are there any summer school plans for this summer? - Christine answered they will need to find some teacher incentives to encourage teacher participation, Christine will send last year's summer school program to Traci
- How are the students meeting the academic standards for this school year? Christine explained that the teachers were given the academic standards for the year in September and have been focusing on the essentials. Based on scores thus far all grades are meeting the requirements.
- Will the school have PSSA's this year? Christine explained that it is unknown at this point and hope to have that information in January.

Adjourned at 7:07pm