

**Gettysburg Montessori Charter School**

**Board of Trustees Official Minutes**

**March 24, 2022**

**Board Members Present**

Tom Hockensmith, Chair

Rose Thornberry, Vice Chair

Traci Elligson, Secretary

Becky Uppercue, Board Treasurer

Ashley Utermahlen

**Missing**

Diana Williams

**Others Present**

Faye Pleso

Christine Fitzpatrick

Nicole Wilt

**Public**

Jason Officer (Parent)

**Call to Order**

Tom Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. All information regarding public access to the Zoom meeting was advertised in the [Gettysburg Times](#). Introductions were made for attendees.

**Public Comment on Agenda**

None

**Old Business**

None

## **Administrator's Report**

- Enrollment: 263
- Re-enrollment is due by March 30, next month we will have the numbers for 2022-2023
- Homebound instruction needed
  - 2 teachers for 4 weeks, up to 10 weeks
  - \$40/hr under 10 hrs per week
  - Motion to approve made by Tom Hockensmith, seconded by Ashley Utermahlen. All agreed; approved.
- Revise substitute pay
  - Previously \$100/day
  - New \$16/hr, retroactive to 2/28/22
  - Motion to approve made by Becky Uppercue, seconded by Rose Thornberry. All agreed; approved.
- PCA hire
  - Elene Espinoza
  - Start 3/21/2022, \$15/hr under 30 hours per week
  - Motion to approve made by Tom Hockensmith, seconded by Traci Elligson. All agreed; approved.
- Montessori Walkthroughs
  - Observing criteria ie; order, procedures
  - Very pleased with observations thus far, still need to complete walkthroughs for specials
- Chamber of Commerce meet and greets
  - New Oxford Chamber of Commerce judged our Science Fair
  - School tours given
  - Gettysburg Chamber of Commerce
  - GMCS nominated for Non-Profit of the Year
- Science Fair went very well
  - Mandatory for grades 3-6
  - K-2 optional with 3 submissions

## Helping Hands

- Gertrude Hawkins
  - Over 3K, final numbers come in next week
- Spirit Wear
  - Sales were low
  - Next year plans for a sales table to be present at school
- Yearbook
  - Sales going on now
- Hersheypark tickets
  - Closes mid-April
- Dubbs Karate Parents Night Out
  - Had to be rescheduled reducing some ticket sales
  - Final numbers not yet reported
- Class Pictures
  - Next week for yearbook

- Just for Kids Tooth Fairy  
Coming tomorrow
- Dave Mitchell Parents Night Out  
40 have signed up
- Field Day  
Need for 20 volunteers, currently have 16 so far

### **Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve made by Ashley Utermahlen, seconded by Becky Uppercue. All agreed; approved.

### **Chair Report**

- April 28 Board meeting to be held in person
- SOFI forms due by April from Board Members
- Trauma Informed Training to be completed by all Board members by May 2021

### **Finance**

- ESSER II funds have been received and applied for staffing during decreased enrollment
- Enrollment is holding steady
- Expenses are over budget but covered by enrollment
- Still have a surplus
- Preliminary budget has a new tuition rate and a surplus
  - Meeting with Faye to identify needs to put funds toward
    - IU for counseling coach
    - Additional playground
    - Staff Liaison through True North
- 5-year plan for expansion
  - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th grades offered
  - Facility
  - Enrollment
  - Questionnaire to go out to parents to evaluate interest
- Free School Lunch program to end June 30, 2022
  - Free and reduced lunch for qualifying students/families
  - Previously 30%, Now 41%
  - New requirements
  - Everyone should apply for school wide program for free/reduced lunch to increase accuracy in numbers
- Governor Wolf
  - Pushing Anti-Charter Agenda prior to leaving office with legislations that would Make it harder for public charter schools to be approved for renewal even when they meet all of the academic standards.

Give more power to the school districts that oversee charter schools, even though these same districts have been failing students for years.

Make it almost impossible to open a new public charter school.

Force charter schools to use more costly health benefit options to mirror local district collective bargaining agreements with unions, leaving fewer dollars available for teacher pay and less resources to serve students.

Pushing for funding cuts for charter schools

#### **Governance Committee**

- No meeting this month
- Waiting for applications  
Deadline is last day of school

#### **New business: For the good of the order**

- Ashley asked that the information regarding “Educational Trips” be added to school newsletter

#### **Public Comment**

- Jason Officer commented that the school is great and wishes for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades to be offered

**Adjourned at 6:43 pm**