

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School
Board of Trustees Official Minutes
October 29, 2020

Board Members Present

Tom Hockensmith, Chair
Becky Upperque, Treasurer
Traci Elligson, Secretary
Rose Thornberry, Vice Chair, (teleconference)
Jill Clinton, Member, at-large
Diana Williams, Member, at-large

Board Members Absent

Ashley Reid, Member, at-large

Others Present

Dr. Faye Pleso, CEO
Jay Appleton, Greyhawk (teleconference)
Jason Officer, Parent
Brittany Lawrence, Teacher

Executive Session-

The Board met for Executive session at 5:46pm 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 Executive session to discuss these matters. Executive session closed at 5:56pm.

Call to Order

Tom Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Social distancing and protective measures were observed 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. Introductions of all attendees were made.

Building Committee

Jay Appleton, Greyhawk discussed construction wall and perimeter fence being placed and ground movement has started. Contractor will see the progress. Starting November 12, 2020 onsite meetings with contractors will begin to review progress with meeting minutes sent to the

GMCS and community regarding cash flow matrix and itemized financial breakdown. Faye Pleso stated that she had no questions or concerns.

Administrator's Report

Dr. Pleso recommended hiring of $\frac{3}{4}$ grade teacher Heather Dohler.

Becky Uppercue made a motion to hire Heather Dohler starting October, 22, 2020 full-time at a salary of \$47,965 with benefits.

Diana Williams seconded the motion and was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

PIMS

Faye Pleso reviewed the PIMS calendar with the Board.

Acadience Report

Faye Pleso discussed mapping curriculum with LIU. Acadience report is what W.I.N. (What I Need) course of studies is based on. Math uses Zearn which coincides with Eureka, has better match to individual child needs. Reading-mapping out ELA curriculum began with Haggerty ACRI (Advanced Care Reading Instructions), ACRI (Advanced Core Reading Instructions) supports Kindergarten this year and next year will support grades K-2 for learning support and special education, LETERS training for language essentials for reading and spelling.

Approval of Comprehensive Plan

Completed every 3 years with the focus to increase reading and math achievement and more Montessori based. Will be uploaded to State.

Jill Clinton made a motion to approve plan.

Becky Uppercue seconded the motion and was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Enrollment Update

Faye Pleso updates Board. Budget based on 237 students, formulated in March, approved in June. Chose blended model. Lost 57 students = \$800,000 deficit. 5-6 children moved away and 1 child's family chose to homeschool. The remainder chose in-person districts for their kids. How to rectify the deficit? Faye worked with Becky Uppercue and Jesse Bean determined that Faye may need to furlough staff in January if nothing changes. Faye met with teachers, then assistants. Most are for in-person 5 days a week. Two teachers and one assistant do not want to return due to health reasons. Faye contacted 50 students who left and 3 families are excited to return. Faye has seen a surge in students- 13 students in the Bermudian Springs district have expressed interest. 3 new students who were going to start, but then didn't. Jesse Bean says if

we had 20 regular ed / 2 special ed or 15 regular / 5 special ed we would break even. Faye suggested cutting teachers assistants hours from 30 to 20. We would be in the black but Faye has some personal concerns as do teachers/staff/families. Faye will be flexible.

Faye is to meet with cleaning company to get additional disinfecting on Wednesdays, Plexiglas for each desk and air purifiers. Enrollment currently is at 180. Faye is going to make sure the kids are coming through questionnaire sent out to families and she will need a few days to make a final decision, wondering about 4 or 5 days, hopefully by November 9th, 2020. Revised budget to be approved at November board meeting.

Health and Safety Plan Update

The board reviewed changes that would need to be made to the Health and Safety Plan to accommodate students 5 days per week in person. This is to allow school administration the ability to implement these changes before the November board meeting. The updated Health and Safety document will incorporate these changes and be submitted to the state.

Tom Hockensmith made a motion to approve the Health and Safety Plan Update and will be sent to the school district.

Becky Uppercue seconded the motion and was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Chair's Report

The chair has no housekeeping to report.

The Annual Report was reviewed and discussed as the prior board meeting and submitted for approval.

Jill Clinton made a motion to approve the Housekeeping report and Annual Report review.

Diana Williams seconded the motion and was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Finance Committee

SEK started our '19-'20 fiscal year about about 3 weeks ago. Michael Snyder from Charter Choices has been providing necessary documentation to them and is hopeful that it will completed early, prior to 12/21/2020 deadline given our experience with them last year.

Governance Committee

Currently the board has all positions filled. There are a few board positions that will need to be filled at the end of the current term and recruitment will start in the New Year.

Jason Officer has been appointed as the community member of the governance committee.

New Business; for the good of the order

Public Comment

Jason Officer interested in starting parent volunteer group to help fund-raise for the school.
Discuss the need to create a Code of Conduct, Clearances for all participants, and a list of goals.

The question was asked if snow days would be virtual. This is to be determined.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair Tom Hockensmith at 7:46pm.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Traci Elligson".

Traci Elligson, Secretary