

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School
Board of Trustees Official Minutes
November 19, 2020

Board Members Present

Tom Hockensmith, Chair
Becky Upperque, Treasurer
Traci Elligson, Secretary
Rose Thornberry, Vice Chair,
Jill Clinton
Diana Williams
Ashley Reid

Others Present

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

Executive Session

The Board met for an Executive session at 5:37 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 5:45pm.

Call to Order

Tom Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:03pm 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. Introductions of all attendees were made.

Consent Agenda

Ashley Reid made motion to accept, Jill Clinton seconded the motion.

Building Committee

Jay Appleton, Greyhawk discussed construction moving forward amid weather issues. General contractor is currently working on the top soil, rough grading and trenching for foundations, 35% of the foundations as of Monday 11/15/2020. Concrete foundations and mason foundations walls have been placed with the electrician and plumber to do the under slab. Mid December floor slab will be poured then wall framing and roof will start. A few glitches have come up and will

continue to be addressed at the building meeting tomorrow, 11/20/2020- Power Cables feeding the modulars are too shallow, Foundation outside of Nurse's office.

Administrators's Report

- **Enrollment**: Faye Pleso updated the Board that as of 9 days ago, November 10, 2020 enrollment was at 182 students. She had 2 family tours and 3 new enrollments and now the current enrollment is at 185 students. In the hopes to add 20 more students the office will be sending out mailings, by way of postcards, to Fayetteville, Bermudian Springs, and Fairfield to families with children ages 5-11 and a billboard will be placed on Rte 94 north of Rte 30 towards Bermudian Springs.
- **Hiring Approval**: Faye Pleso recommended hiring of Physical Education teacher Alex Ruzbacki to start on November 9, 2020 at \$25 per hour for part time (under 30 hours per week) without benefits. Becky Uppercue made a motion to hire Mr. Ruzbacki and Traci Elligson seconded the motion and was approved by unanimous roll call vote.
- **IDEA-B**: Annual was previously known as "Meets Requirements" and is now "Needs Assistance". Data in 2018 wasn't provided to the state in error where it was only sent to LIU. This error has since been corrected and the data is sent to the state and LIU as required.
- **PA Future Ready**: stayed the same due to no PSSA testing in Spring of 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Montessori Updates**:
 - GMCS will no longer be working with the University of Delaware as of 11/9/2020. Their method would have completely overhauled the whole school, Faye did not want to change the "culture" of the school
 - GMCS reached out to NAMC (North American Montessori Center) and brought Charlie and Corrine from IU and we discussed sponsoring them for Montessori training so they can help us with curriculum training. Jill Clinton inquired if there was an interest if 1 teacher could attend, Faye explained they could if the budget allows. Ashley Reid mentioned focus on Montessori methodology (interactions).
- **Superintendents**
Bi-weekly meetings are scheduled where GMCS CEO is not invited nor in attendance. IU is now attending with 2 people to reach out to Montessori Charter Schools.
- **PDE**
Decided last week that there will not be any mandates placed on the schools but will be left to the districts to determine the need for closures.

Chair Report

Faye Pleso's review has been completed, Tom Hockensmith to sign and send to Faye Pleso.

Discussed need to periodically check Board emails and will send log-in information to all board members.

Informed that future board meetings to be virtual due to increasing pandemic numbers and need for custodial assistance after meetings if held in person, until future re-evaluation.

Finance Committee

Per Jesse Bean “we had another good month financially because we received some larger payments from districts that were outstanding, but this upcoming month we are likely to notice the decreased tuition coming in due to decreased enrollment related to COVID.”

Savings/Checking accounts up by \$100, 000, expenses are lower. Ability to keep assistants if at 15 hours per week.

Revised budget-Tom Hockensmith made motion to accept, Diana Williams seconded the motion and was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Building construction update\$100,391 has been expensed with a remaining \$894,600 needed for the school's equity contribution. Principal payments on loan to begin next August.

Change in Administration with President-Elect Biden, he has pledged to triple Title spending and increase federal contributions for Special Education. Possible continuation of pro-charter policies with the new Secretary of Education to be announced.

Governance Committee

Next meeting is in January with a notification to be placed in the Newsletter. Currently the board has all positions filled. There are a few board positions that will need to be filled ie; Ashley Reid, Jill Clinton, Becky Uppercue, Rose Thornberry, at the end of the current term and recruitment will start in the New Year. Becky Uppercue and Rose Thornberry are eligible for another term.

New Business; For the good of the order

None

Public Comment

Jason Officer started a parent volunteer group to help fundraise for the school with GMCS Helping Hands Committee. The committee includes 6 parents in total covering grades K-4. Advertisements for committee will be added to school Newsletter around February

Picture Day-packets to come.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair Tom Hockensmith at 7:29 pm.

Approved:

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

Traci Elligson, Secretary