

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School

Board of Trustees Official Minutes

May 27, 2021

Board Members Present

Tom Hockensmith, Chair
Rose Thornberry, Vice Chair
Traci Elligson, Secretary
Becky Uppercue, Board Treasurer
Diana Williams
Derek Beckenbaugh
Jill Clinton

Missing

none

Others Present

Dr. Faye Pleso, CEO
Christine Fitzpatrick
Nicole Norris

Public

Jay Appleton, Greyhawk
Jesse Bean, Charter Choices
Jason Officer, Parent
Joshua and Sarah Brechbuehl, Parents

Call to Order

Tom Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:06 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. Introductions were made for new Board member and new attendees.

Building Agenda

Jay Appleton, Greyhawk states that construction is staying on schedule with renovation work to begin on June 1, 2021. The construction budget was affected by a few unexpected issues, but we are still within the assigned contingency funds. The schools wish list items will also fall within our contingency funds.

Administrator's Report

- Enrollment: Faye Pleso reported that current enrollment is 236. Enrollment for 2021-2022 school year is currently at 251 which was updated today.
- Next year will be in person with 5 days allotted for flexible instruction which is allowed by the State Board of Education. Virtual day rules and expectations will be communicated with teachers and parents and IEP's will be kept on schedule.
 - Motion to approve made by Tom Hockensmith and seconded by Traci Elligson. All agreed; approved.
- Robert C. Hoffman Grant given to the school of \$9,200 and this will cover the purchase grade 3 / 4 books.
- Federal Monitoring Review, which is required every 5 years, has been completed. The review was postponed from last year due to Covid.
- McKinney Vento review requires updates to policies and is required every 5 years. Faye Pleso will be completing updates over the summer for Fall Board approval
- Helping Hands update
 - Upcoming meeting on June 8, 2021 will discuss
 - Open house, Back to School night, Update and renovate the Teacher's Lounge, Spirit wear at the school store that will open in September.
- Renovations
 - the room in the school lobby for a Teacher's Lounge
 - Learning support will become 3 small classrooms.
 - Nurse Adrian's office and main hallway will replace the carpet floor with tile.
 - Offices will have new carpet.
 - Music room in multipurpose room will be situated on the stage.

Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve made by Becky Uppercue, seconded by Diana Williams. All agreed; approved.

Chair Report

- Parent surveys and Board surveys were sent out.
- Board meetings are set through August 2021. Will reconstitute board and meetings in August.

- Act 55 will be sent to Derek Beckenbaugh

Finance

- Jesse Bean informs the Board that the school has a strong cash standpoint based on the April report. GMCS is staying close to the budget, and district account and receivables concerns have been addressed.
- Above budget by approximately \$300K due to revised budget based on lower enrollment during August-December because of Covid pandemic and current higher enrollment.
- Expenses are down by approximately \$60K with a Net income of approximately \$230K.
- \$204K coming from ESSER III and CARES Act funds will assist with payroll costs covering:
 - 3% returning staff salary increases.
 - New positions: Phys Ed teacher, PT Learning Support, 3-PCA's, PT Librarian, additional Food Service personnel
- Construction Loan principal payments will start in September 2021 and decreased Special Education rates will be offset by no longer having a modular lease of \$100K upon its removal in July 2021.
- Initial Budget for 2021-2022 will be posted on the school website.
- Jason Officer asked if a new Librarian is budgeted, and Becky Uppercue responded "yes."

Governance committee

- Interviewed Ashley Whitmore Utermahlen to fill Jill Clinton's position that opens in August, vote to be done in July and will be sworn in in August.

New business: For the good of the order

- Derek Beckenbaugh asked about social distancing and masking come the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Faye Pleso replied that the school is awaiting guidance from the state but plans to possibly keep shields up. GMCS will have an updated Healthy and Safety plan by July due date.
- Tom Hockensmith brought up plans to resume Board meetings in-person with hopes to start in August or September 2021

Public Comment

- Jason Officer
 1. Thanked the Board members during a year of Covid pandemic, and stated he enjoyed the kindergarten graduation.
 2. Inquired about the budget for library books?
 - Answer (Faye Pleso): books have been covered in the budget and grants and set to begin delivery on August 10, 2021. Acknowledgements will be placed in the library in recognition of grants and donations.

3. What was the decision for the library roof?
 - Answer (Faye Pleso): there will be a beautiful skylight!
4. Consent Agenda questioning what is Arts and Residence?
 - Answer (Faye Pleso): it is run by a husband and wife for 3 / 4 and 5 / 6 grade students to expose the students to history, manners and cultures of Civil War Era and other historical periods of time through study and dance, also teaches needlepoint, sewing, and crochet.

Adjourned at 7:21pm