

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School

Board of Trustees Official Minutes

July 29, 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

Ashley Whitmore

Jason Officer, Parent

CCorder443 (Casey Gatewood-Parent)

Galaxy A01 (Melinda Fishel-Parent)

Galaxy S9= (Rachel Frazier-Parent)

Jessica's Iphone (Jessica Shuffler)

Jgate88@gmail.com (Jerry Gatewood)

Pearson (Amber Pearson)

Tiffanie Leppo (Parent)

Ty (Natalie Breckenbaugh-Parent)

Galaxy Note (Connie-Parent)

Brenna Robitaille-Parent

Scottjami-Jamie Scott

Jessic's S21 (Jessica Lehmer-Parent of Daniella)

Call to Order

Tom Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:08 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.

Public Comment

- Jason Officer
 - For Mask to be optional as a parent of a special needs child
- From chat:
 - Austin Pritchard
 - “We support optional masks not mandatory masks.” (Austin and Teresa Pritchard)
 - Multiple parents advocating for “Masks Optional”
 - Jessica Shuffler
 - Tiffanie Leppo
 - Rachael Frazier
 - Jerry Gatewood
 - Amber Pearson
 - Casey Gatewood
 - Melinda Fishel
 - Connie
 - Jaime Scott

Old Business

none

Building Agenda

Jay Appleton, Greyhawk states that construction is staying on schedule and working on renovations to the music room addition, furniture installation, library carpet and HVAC. Just remaining finishing touches and looking at the August 17, 2021 completion.

Administrator's Report

- Enrollment: Faye Pleso reported that current enrollment is 267 for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Health and Safety Plan
 - In response to the PA Department of Education
 - Parents/Staff surveys showed 95% voted for masks optional
 - Plan is for Masks Optional with a layered approach unless mandated by the PA Department of Health
 - Transportation
- Mask mandates will be determined by public transportation district
- School will supply
 - Desk Shields in classrooms and lunchroom
 - Handwashing instruction and guideline
 - Cleaning/disinfecting regularly
 - Electrostatic spray at night
 - Nurse Adrian will work with the PA Department of Health
 - Contact tracing
 - Check-ins with sick students
 - No longer necessary; Daily temperature checks, Daily health checker
 - Vaccines
 - School will not provide, but will provide information on how to receive
- Motioned for approval by Becky Uppercue and seconded by Diana Williams, board approval by all
 - Melinda asks about sharing of materials
 - Faye responded, back to normal with wipes \
 - Emergency Instructional Time Template
 - 900 hours required
 - Free and public education
 - Meet all requirements
- Motion for approval Derek Beckenbaugh, seconded by Tom Hockensmith, board approved by all
- McKinney Vento Act
 - Students who are homeless
 - Added dispute resolution
 - Policy approval for next month
- Act 110 of 2020
 - Student sexual assault to another student
 - Violator cannot remain in the same school as victim
- Flexible Instruction Days
 - Has been approved by the PA Department of Health
 - Covers snow days or other reasons for needed closures
- Student/Parent Handbook
 - Dates updated
 - Removed items pertaining to Covid-19

- Temperature checks, health checker
 - Added
 - FACTS portal
 - Flexible instruction vs Virtual instruction
 - Updated mask mandate to optional to match Health and Safety Plan
 - Parent involvement section brought back
 - Visitors section
 - Field trips
 - Conferences: Virtual or In Person
- Employee Handbook
 - Calendar updated
 - Dispute Resolution
 - McKinney Vento
 - Leave Carryover for 12-month employees
 - Covid-19 discussion removed
- Acadience scores-Christine Kirkpatrick
 - Impacted by 64 students enrolled in school without full year of GMCS instruction
 - At or above Benchmark
 - Kindergarten Math
 - 5/6 Retelling and Accuracy
 - Trends/Patterns
 - 5/6 outsourced lower elementary
 - Focus
 - Math
 - Instructional reading with teachers
 - K-3 Monthly Phonics Screeners Assessment
 - Increase administrative walk throughs
 - Public question-Melinda
 - Will GMCS be adding political discussion from kids regarding gender, race?
 - Christine responded has not been added but we will have to follow any district changes
 - Hiring
 - **Grade 1/2**
 - Jamie Needham at \$39K, full time, start date of 8/2/2021
 - Motion to approve made by Jill Clinton, seconded by Derek Beckenbaugh. All agreed; approved
 - **Grade 5/6**
 - Rita Naugle at \$39K, full time, start date of 8/2/2021
 - Motion to approve made by Becky Uppercue, seconded by Tom Hockensmith. All agreed; approved
 - **Grade 5/6 Assistant**
 - Kimberly Leone at \$17/hr, under 30 hours, start date of 8/2/2021

- Motion to approve made by Tom Hockensmith, seconded by Traci Elligson. All agreed; approved
 - **Food Server/Lunchroom**
 - Tanya Stevens at \$15/hr, under 30 hours, start date of 8/2/2021
 - Motion to approve made by Becky Uppercue, seconded by Jill Clinton. All agreed; approved
 - **PCA**
 - Cassidy Wilhelm at \$15/hr, under 30 hours, start date of 8/2/2021
 - Motion to approve made by Tom Hockensmith, seconded by Derek Beckenbaugh. All agreed; approved
 - **PCA**
 - Kimberly Senecal at \$15/hr, under 30 hours, start date of 8/2/2021
 - Motion to approve made by Tom Hockensmith, seconded by Diana Williams. All agreed; approved
 - **PCA**
 - Danielle Sunderland at \$15/hr, under 30 hours, start date of 8/2/2021
 - Motion to approve made by Becky Uppercue, seconded by Traci Elligson. All agreed; approved
- Public question-Tiffanie Leppo
 - What is a PCA?

Personal Care Assistant that helps child one on one
 - **RTI/Librarian**-no current selection, will approve next month
- Public question

What is an RTI?

Response to Intervention-part time position/Librarian-part time position. Full time position together if possible

Wellness

 - Courtney Seitz at \$25/hr, under 30 hours, start date of 8/2/2021
 - Motion to approve made by Derek Beckenbaugh, seconded by Becky Uppercue. All agreed; approved
- Helping_Hands Update-Nicole Norris
 - 2 committees led by parents helped to set up
 - Back to school night /Ribbon cutting ceremony
 - Scavenger hunt
 - Spirit wear table
 - FACTS table
 - Teacher Lounge
 - Amazon wish list
 - Spirit Store to open on September 6

Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve made by Jill Clinton, seconded by Rose Thornberry. All agreed; approved.

Chair Report

- Back to school night 8/18/2021, Board members please attend ribbon cutting
- Survey results sent to Board regarding evaluation for Faye Pleso to be completed
- Parent review has been completed
- August Board meeting to be held in person and will be open to the public
- Board will set up new schedule for upcoming school year meetings in August meeting.

Finance

- Jesse Bean informs the Board budget was approved in June meeting.
- Balance sheet and financial statements are posted on school website
- Cash on hand is 5 times expected debt
- September/October construction loan principal payments will start.
- Modest change to monthly costs due to removal of modular structure
- Covid-19 Relief funding has assisted school budget

Governance committee

- Recommended Ashley Whitmore,
Motion to approve made by Tom Hockensmith, seconded by Derek Beckenbaugh. All agreed; approved, will be sworn in in August.
- Re-vetted Becky Uppercue, action item for next month
- Re-vetted Rose Thornberry, action item for next month
- Update Excel spreadsheet

New business: For the good of the order

- None

Public Comment

- Brenna asked about plexiglass for students
Faye commented that shields for 1-6 grades and on desks
- Ashley asked about extension for free breakfast/lunch
Faye commented as of now it will be extended until January but may be extended further
- Jessica asked about "Critical race curriculum"
Faye answered, no we are focusing on standards

Adjourned at 7:36pm