

**Gettysburg Montessori Charter School**

**Board of Trustees Official Minutes**

**September 23, 2021**

**Board Members Present**

Tom Hockensmith, Chair

Rose Thornberry, Vice Chair

Traci Elligson, Secretary

Becky Uppercue, Board Treasurer

Ashley Utermahlen

**Missing**

Diana Williams

Derek Beckenbaugh

**Others Present**

Christine Fitzpatrick

Jesse Bean

Nicole Norris

Leigh Gugliette

**Public**

Jason Officer (Parent)

Jerry/Casey Gatewood (Parent)

Amanda (Parent)

**Call to Order**

Tom Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:14 pm. All information regarding public access to the meeting was advertised in the [Gettysburg Times](#). Introductions were made for attendees.

**Administrator's Report**

Enrollment: Christine Fitzpatrick reported that current enrollment is 269.

- Hiring approval:
  - PCA-Danielle Spencer at \$15/hr, under 30 hours, no benefits, with start date of 10/4/2021

Motion to approve made by Becky Uppercue, seconded by Rose Thornberry. All agreed; approved.

- Librarian-Emily Windover at \$20/hr, under 30 hrs, no benefits, with start date of 9/27/2021

Motion to approve made by Rose Thornberry, seconded by Traci Elligson. All agreed; approved.

- Rtl/Special Ed: Marsha Smith at \$30/hr, under 30 hours, no benefits, with start date of 9/27/21

Motion to approve made by Tom Hockensmith, seconded by Ashley Utermahlen

- Acadience Scores:
  - Benchmark scores 3 times per year
  - Math and Reading scores show that there was not much of a summer slide and stayed consistent with last year
  - Parent: "Can we see our child's score?"-Chris: Yes, records are kept and can be requested from either Chris or student's teacher.
  - PSSA scores showed great results, specifically 4<sup>th</sup> grade Science and 5/6 grade ELA
- PIMS (PA Information Management System): Leigh
  - record keeping of school safety for the State of PA Education
- Helping Hands Committee: Nicole
  - Upcoming events:
    1. Parents are looking for local businesses where we can place school Scarecrows to raise funds for the SPCA and determining themes for scarecrows for each grade
    2. GMCS monthly newsletter
      - Open house for school
      - Halloween parade on 10/29 along the bus loop
  - Spirit Store is closed
  - Book Fair
    1. Folett for Fall fair but no longer in 2022, will look into Scholastic for Spring fair
  - Halloween Parade Float to be coordinated by parents
  - Movie Night-November to be run by Jason Officer
  - Giving Spree
  - Holiday Shop \*\*will advertise for more parent involvement

#### Consent Agenda

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

## **Chair Report**

- Board training ○ Act 55 to be completed by Derek Beckenbaugh and Ashley Utermahlen
- Trauma Informed Training to be completed by all Board members by May 2021

## **Finance:** Jesse Bean-August 31 financials

- Cash has decreased since June 30<sup>th</sup> due to final construction costs but holding at over \$1 million
- Principal construction loan payments will start in September
- District receivables are up
- Federal ESSR (Covid relief) payments are still pending receipt
- Modulars have been removed and short-term liability has been removed
- Long-term liability will go up for loan expected in October
- State Charter Conference to be held in Harrisburg, Board members welcome to attend
- GMCS's allocation for Learning Loss is \$11,320 and Summer Enrichment allocation is \$2,264 ○ Must be used by 2024

## **Governance committee**

- No meeting last month, Board is at capacity

## **New business: For the good of the order/ Public Comment**

Jason Officer (Parent): Kindergarten class was under quarantine for stomach bug, will this be a common event? Board: This will be reviewed with Faye Pleso

Home district mask exemption forms require a 14 day quarantine but this is not required on GMCS exemption forms. Board: This will be reviewed with Faye Pleso

During quarantine free lunches are offered but it is inconvenient to pick up daily. Is there any option of getting a week at a time upon request? Board: This will be reviewed with Faye Pleso

Amanda (Parent): Are quarantine absences excused? Chris: If assigned schoolwork is completed and turned in for kindergarten and if the higher grades complete their asynchronous learning and are signed in during classes it will be counted and excused.

Jerry/Casey (Parents): Is GMCS planning to challenge the Governor's mask mandate? Tom: Faye Pleso has been in contact with the school lawyer. The mandate/Health & Safety plan is tied to both federal and state funding that the school would therefore lose if non-compliant.

Jerry/Casey (Parents): What would the impact be to the school without the funding? Tom: 2020-2021 school years funding allowed GMCS to keep all staff employed during the COVID events

**Adjourned** at 7:02pm