

**Gettysburg Montessori Charter School**

**Board of Trustees Official Minutes**

**October 28, 2021**

**Board Members Present**

Tom Hockensmith, Chair

Rose Thornberry, Vice Chair

Traci Elligson, Secretary

Becky Uppercue, Board Treasurer

**Missing**

Diana Williams

Derek Beckenbaugh

Ashley Utermahlen

**Others Present**

Faye Pleso

Christine Fitzpatrick

Jesse Bean

Nicole Norris

**Public**

Jason Officer (Parent)

Jessica (Parent)

Amanda (Parent)

**Call to Order**

Tom Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. All information regarding public access to the meeting was advertised in the [Gettysburg Times](#). Introductions were made for attendees.

**Public Comment on Agenda**

- Jason Officer (Parent): Can ARP/ESSER funds be used for more outdoor seating and learning/nature education?

Faye: GMCS would like to look further into those type of options but will have to comply with ground restrictions

### **Old Business**

None

### **Administrator's Report**

- Enrollment: 266. Kindergarten is full, spaces are available in all other grades
- Hiring Recommendations:
  - PCA-Amber Shank \$15/hr, less than 30 hrs, begins 10/4/21. Motion to approve made by Rose Thornberry, seconded by Tom Hockensmith. All agreed; approved.
  - ¾ Assistant-Grace Green-\$17/hr, less than 30 hrs, begins 10/20/21. Motion to approve made by Becky Uppercue, seconded by Rose Thornberry. All agreed; approved.
  - Food Server/Lunchroom Aide-Maureen Johnson- \$15/hr, less than 30 hrs, begins 10/19/21. Motion to approve made by Tom Hockensmith, seconded by Rose Thornberry. All agreed; approved.
- ARP/ESSER Funds: GMCS received around \$200K in funding to be spent between March 2020 to September 2024. Accepted uses for funding is to; prevent, prepare, or respond to Covid-19, 6 categories of approved uses, purposes must be necessary, reasonable, sustainable. Survey sent out to parents, faculty, and stake holders for suggestions on which to use funds on.
  - Application due by next week
    - Sample of suggestions:
      - Safe in-person schooling
      - Additional cleaning staff
      - Shields
      - More trees for shade (20 trees were recently planted)
      - 7/8 grade schooling
      - Expanded playground/ separate one for Kindergarten
      - Greenhouse
      - Outdoor pavilion/picnic tables
      - HEPA filters
      - Parent Liaison to work with counselor and parents
      - Sports activities
      - Field trips
      - Phonics readers
      - Additional learning support
      - STEM/Maker space
      - More books in the library
      - Transportation to after school activity clubs
      - Monthly family activities
      - Staff retention i.e., comparable rates, bonuses, tech support on site
- After School has been stopped due to lack of staffing

- If offered through in-house GMCS would require Department of Health/Human Services license
- May look into after school tutoring but may still be staffing issues
- Exit interviews
  - Primary reason for enrollment
    - Smaller class sizes
  - Primary reason for leaving
    - Need for more resources for family/child
    - Graduated/Moved
    - Didn't agree with quarantine protocol
    - Sports after school
    - Poor communication
- PDE/DOH Covid Procedure Updated 10/8/21
  - No longer quarantine classes, now just close contacts of 3ft or less for 15mins or longer
  - Monitor how many cases of Covid -19
- Daughters of the American Revolution Service Day
  - Donate books to the library
  - Visited and read to students
  - Books to each teacher
- Weis4School fund raising had a \$400 check for GMCS
- Helping Hands Update:
  - Postponed Morning muffins and Movie Night until Spring
  - Giving Spree-goal of 3K
    - All donations must be in by November 5 by drop off, mail, or online
  - Volunteers needed for
    - Ag Lab for the whole week
    - Book Fair in December
    - Holiday shop -led by Heather Lockman

### **Consent Agenda**

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

### **Chair Report**

- Trauma Informed Training to be completed by all Board members by May 2021
- November board meeting will be held on November 18 due to the holiday
- December board meeting will be held on December 16 due to the holiday

### **Finance: Jesse Bean-Charter Choices**

- Cash flow is strong. Cash is down to \$949K due to construction-related invoices as was expected
- GMCS retains 3 months cash on hand due to budget based on enrollment of 255 and current enrollment is 266

- ESSER funds II grant funds of \$100,805 applied to Y21 Personnel Costs
- ARP (ESSER III) grant funds of \$203,755 will be allocated for '21-22 expenses
- GASD rates (Form 363)
  - Allocated for Charter schools with a unique rate for each district
  - GASD calculated current rates late resulting in additional costs from previous year
  - GMCS plans to pay additional costs requiring email/approval from Faye/Board Chair

**Governance committee**

- No meeting last month, Board is at capacity

**New business: For the good of the order**

- Faye Pleso/Jesse Bean informed the Board of upcoming PA Charter School conference
  - Vendors for school psychiatrists
  - Discussion on funding for charter schools
- GMCS have had an intake of calls for incoming families for K-2

**Public Comment**

- Amanda (Parent): She speaks for several parents who are asking for Zoom board meetings to allow parents without transportation or childcare to attend from home
  - Tom Hockensmith/Faye Pleso: We will have to look into it for the need of a tech person on site, restrictions are understood which is why minutes are posted in the paper.
  - Jason Officer: Could a parent live stream it to the GMCS private Facebook site?
  - Tom Hockensmith/Faye Pleso: We can look into the options that might be available.
  - Tom Hockensmith: Parents are always welcome to reach out to the Board or Faye with any questions or concerns to have brought up at Board meetings if they are unable to attend

**Adjourned at 7:15pm**