

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School

Board of Trustees Official Minutes

December 16, 2021

Board Members Present

Tom Hockensmith, Chair

Rose Thornberry, Vice Chair

Traci Elligson, Secretary

Becky Uppercue, Board Treasurer

Ashley Utermahlen

Missing

Diana Williams

Others Present

Faye Pleso

Christine Fitzpatrick

Nicole Wilt

Public

Jason Officer (Parent)

Steve Sharon (Parent)

Call to Order

Tom Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. All information regarding public access to the meeting was advertised in the Gettysburg Times. Introductions were made for attendees.

Public Comment on Agenda

None

Old Business

Jason Officer (Parent)- ESSER improvement funds suggested earlier for nature trails would be a good Eagle Scout project.

Administrator's Report

- Enrollment: 264-no change
- GMCS has joined the Gettysburg and New Oxford Chambers of Commerce to network and share ideas
 - New Oxford Chamber of Commerce opened "God's Store" for families in need
 - Nicole Wilt joined a Gettysburg networking event
 - GMCS will host March mixer for Science Fair Judges
 - Chris Kirkpatrick joined the New Oxford breakfast
- Insurance comparisons were made by other agents, but current agency was able to offer lowest rates.
- Highmark informed GMCS that they would be required to join the Affordable Care Act, increasing costs by 23%, because they would no longer be grandfathered in.
 - Agent spoke with Highmark and will keep GMCS for one more year at current rate
- Exit survey-1 to be done
- Mask Mandate Update
 - Masks are optional, returning to original policy in Health & Safety Plan
- Propane Costs
 - 7K in propane costs so far, compared to 9K last year
 - Informed that new air filtration runs on propane
 - Will inquire into changing to electric or solar panel options
- Helping Hands: Nicole Wilt
 - **Meetings are held at 5:30p at school on Thursdays prior to Board meetings
 - Fundraisers:**
 - Pictures-\$2,592 profit, with goal of \$800
 - Spiritware- \$192 profit, with goal of \$200
 - Popcorn Fundraiser-\$2,275 profit, with goal of \$500
 - Giving Spree Fundraiser-\$772, with goal of \$3K
 - Book Fair-\$1329, over \$1K in profit
 - Holiday Shop (not fundraiser)-\$2800 so far, spent \$3,300

Consent Agenda

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

Chair Report

- Trauma Informed Training to be completed by all Board members by May 2021

Finance: Becky Uppercue

- SEK audit
 - Good reviews, clean audit
- Revenues decreased at close of fiscal year
- Deficits reduced; cash balance higher than last year
- \$1M in checking/savings
- ESSER II funds of \$108K this year helped maintain staff of last year
- \$15K to start this year with small surplus
- Conservative budget: will be affected by inflation and increased propane costs
- Largest expenditures continue to be locked in salaries and benefits

Governance Committee

No meeting in December, meeting in new year

New business: For the good of the order

Discussed parent requests for changes to current Covid-19 quarantine policy with lawyer, was determined to continue following DOH guidelines for the safety of the children and staff

Public Comment

Steve Shannon (Parent)

- Requested more information about policies and changes. Concerned that mask announcement was put out on Monday rather than the Friday prior when courts made their decision.

Faye Pleso/Nicole Wilt apologized for the delay, explained there were computer issues that held up the release of the mask notification to parents.

- Offered landscaping background assistance with nature trail and Eagle scout project. States that the company he works with out of York can help with the design work

Jason Officer (Parent)

- Requested live streaming Board meetings through Zoom or other options, offering recurring links to parents who cannot make it to meetings
Tom Hockensmith responded that we will review with counsel prior to next meeting

Adjourned at 6:43pm