

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School

Board of Trustees Official Minutes

April 28, 2022

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 Kirkpatrick

Nicole Wilt

Jesse Bean (by phone)-Charter Choices

Public

Jason Officer (Parent)

Call to Order

Tom Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm. All information regarding public access to the Zoom meeting was advertised in the Gettysburg Times. Introductions were made for attendees.

Public Comment on Agenda

Jason Officer: "Will lunches be free next school year?"

Faye Pleso answered: "We do not have that information yet."

Old Business

None

Administrator's Report

- Enrollment: 262
- Enrollment is 285 for 2022-2023
- Yield test showed that at full capacity (298) requires 3,000 gallons/day
Reached out to company that dug the well and found that we only use 900 gallons/day at current enrollment of 262
- 7th/8th Grade Surveys
137 responses
83.9% very likely
5.84% likely
4% not likely
Next step is to speak with solicitor
- International Peace Run
Founded in 1987
Chose GMCS as a 2022 stop
- Parents Night Out
Once a quarter
ARP/ESSER funds

- PSSA/Acadience-Christine Kirkpatrick
In the middle of testing
ELA completed, Math to begin next week followed by make-up testing the week after
Benchmark testing being completed now
Preliminary data given at May Board meeting
Goals to be determined by June 9th
- Helping Hands-Nicole Wilt
Gertrude Hawkins
\$3,435 profit
T-shirt sale
\$470
Yearbook
103 sold
Hersheypark tickets
Was not for profit but for free tickets (27) and were used as gifts in the teachers
- Easter Egg Hunt
Dubbs Karate Parents Night Out
Had to be rescheduled reducing some ticket sales
Final numbers not yet reported
Book Fair
Not for profit
May Events
Teacher Appreciation week-each day sponsored by different student families

Massages
Food (Breakfast or Lunch)
Raffle Baskets
Field Day
Spirit Day
Field Trip
Graduation
Kindergarten screening

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve made by Ashley Utermahlen, seconded by Rose Thornberry. All agreed; approved.

Chair Report

- SOFI forms completed by all Board Members
- Trauma Informed Training completed by all Board members
- Act 55 to be completed by end of June by Board members
- Surveys to go out next week
- Board handbook states that 2 meetings can be skipped if needed with proper notification to the public

Finance-Jessie Bean (by phone)

- Jesse Bean will be in person for May Board meeting
- 9 months in FY22 Q3 complete
- GMCS has submitted and received ESSER II funds and applied for personnel costs during decreased enrollment in FY21
- ESSER III (ARP) funds were applied for in February and will be utilized to offset allocable expenses in FY22
- Enrollment holds steady at roughly 260 with 280+ pre-enrolled for FY22-23
- GMCS shows a modest surplus as of 3/31/22 due to conservative budgeting on projected school district reimbursement rates
- Budget preview FY22-23-to be approved by June 30
 - Based on enrollment of 275 but current is 285
 - Regular Ed rate- no change
 - Special Ed rate- expect 1% increase
 - New positions
 - 1/2 ELA
 - 1/2 Math
 - Summer Tech Specialist
 - Full year of debt service
 - Retirement rate increasing
 - \$150K for playground and parking lot

Looking at \$72K surplus

Governance Committee

- Candidates are submitting paperwork

New business: For the good of the order

- Ashley Utermahlen: "Will there be after school offered for next year?"
Faye: "We can look into it but previous company RSG has had staffing issues"
Ashley: "Little Life employees go to Bermudian Springs after school"
Becky: "YWCA may supply staff"
Jason: "YMCA may also"
- Ashley Utermahlen: "Could we do a panel of parents of now 7 and 8th graders to see how the transition went for them?"
Faye: "GMCS has a transition team, we can review with them to see what worked and what didn't"
Other items suggested were to look into sports teams or other ways to have a child be active both at GMCS and their local school district to ease transition

Public Comment

- Jason Officer: "I am looking into a possibility for Eagle Scouts to assist in trails on campus, and maybe the school can get a grant from Wellspan for the playground to improve the health of the students."

Adjourned at 7:49pm