

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School

Board of Trustees Official Minutes

February 23, 2023

Board Members Present

Tom Hockensmith, Chair

Rose Thornberry, Vice Chair

Becky Uppercue, Board Treasurer

Traci Elligson, Secretary

Amy Brown

Missing

none

Others Present

Faye Pleso

Tammy Hogan

Public

Jason Officer-Parent

Brenna Robitaille

Amber Pearson

Ron Arbogast

Danielle Roberts

Call to Order

Tom Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm. Introductions were made for attendees.

Public Comment on Agenda

Good news club, wants to discuss

- To discuss during CEO report

Old Business

None

Administrator's Report

- Enrollment
 - Currently 279
 - Maximum enrollment is 300
- Hiring
 - Food Service-April Taylor
 - \$15/hour, under 30 hrs
 - Motion to approve made by Becky Uppercue, seconded by Amy Brown
- Good News Club
 - Around since 1960's, Christian based program
 - Use school space after school hours
 - Not part of school curriculum
 - Question:
 - Breanna- Do they rent the space and would we be open to other clubs?
 - Faye: We need to meet with them to get more information
- Comprehensive Plan
 - Goal is staff retention
 - Staff Retention Survey results
 - 3 wishes-what would they be?
 - Part-Time to Full time
 - More salary comparable to other schools
 - We received 70% funding
 - Provided increase and added milestones last year
 - Full time assistants
 - Part time staff to receive sick/holiday pay/health benefits
 - Education benefits
 - Salary increases based upon education is in place
 - Bonuses
 - May be able to use ERC (Employee Retention Credit)
 - Sick/Personal Leave to change to just Leave
 - Milestones-Expand to other Full Time Staff
 - Questions:
 - Jason-What are the hours currently for Teachers Assisitants?
 - Faye- 29.75 hours

- Several parents present state that Teachers Assistants were a reason they chose to attend the school
- Helping Hands
 - Stoney Point
 - Raised \$1,300
 - Read Across America-next week
 - Spirit Week-coming up
 - Reading Challenge
 - School gold
 - Freeze pops for a week
 - Kids who get gold
 - Free skate rental for next skate party
 - Skate Party 6-8pm
 - 4/6/23
 - Admission free
 - Skates \$3 unless gold ticket
 - 6/19/23
 - End of year
 - Admission and skates
 - Science Fair-March 16
 - Book Fair-April
 - Talent Show
 - 21 Kids
 - Teachers and administration
 - Surprise acts
 - Heather Dohler-MC
 - Parents
 - Not enough space for all parents
 - Maybe parents with students performing to attend?
 - Will record for students performing
- New Website
 - GMCS News
 - Newsletters
 - Parent/Student portal
 - FACTS page
 - Lunch menu for several months ahead
 - New and returning student registration enrollment
 - New families
 - Done online
 - 15 enrollments for next year for multiple grades
 - Current families
 - Re-enrollment online

- Book A Tour link
 - On every page
 - 8 families so far
- Programs
 - Lists all programs

Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve made by Rose Thornberry, seconded by Amy Brown. All agree; approved.

Chair Report

- Parent surveys to come soon
- Board members are all up to date with training
- SOFI reminder to all Board members due by April 1st

Finance-Jesse (Charter Choices)/Becky

- Fall 2021
 - \$1M in cash
 - Financial Health rebounded to pre-construction levels since end of project in Summer 2021
- 149 days of cash on hand
- \$4M liability for construction
- Projecting \$230K surplus
- Budget process has begun
 - Draft budget next month
 - Approve May or June
- Budget plans
 - Repair parking lot
 - Split between this year and next
 - New playground for younger students/add more for older students
 - Fence around playground
 - Looking into grant
 - Staff Retention
- Proposal/Resolution
 - 600K to move into a 15 month CD at Members 1st
 - Gain 4% interest
 - Still allows for 100 days cash on hand

Motion to approve made by Tom Hockensmith, seconded by Becky Uppercue. All agree; approved.

Governance Committee

- Postpone swearing in for Elana King for March meeting

New business: For the good of the order

None

Public Comment

- Danielle Roberts (parent)
 - After School Care
 - Can it be parent funded and increase Assistant hours?
- Brenna Robitaille
 - Social Media Outlet
 - 1 social media school site exists, primarily set for making playdates
 - Not open for discussion that may lead to disagreement
 - Looking to start Parent group
 - Social Media based
 - Interested in starting a PTO with the school
 - Wants parents and teachers to work together and communicate
 - Nikki-Helping Hands was initially started as a Parent Committee but had poor parent involvement other than Jason Officer
 - School Dance
 - Interested in looking into parent interest
 - Nikki-unable to do this school year
 - School offers 5/6 grade education dance
 - Virtual Suggestion box
 - Teacher Appreciation
 - Interested in getting a way to know the teachers interests earlier in the year
- Amber Pearson (parent)
 - 7th/8th grade progress?
 - Faye
 - Working on feasibility of space and money
 - New solicitor just started
 - Current charter is renewed in 2025
 - Proposals need to be evaluated

Adjourned at 7:32 pm