

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School

Board of Trustees Official Minutes

September 28, 2023

Board Members Present

Tom Hockensmith, Chair

Rose Thornberry, Vice Chair

Becky Uppercue

Traci Elligson

Missing

Amy Brown

Elana King

Others Present

Faye Pleso

Tammy Hogan

Public

Ron Arbogast Jr.-Parent

Jason Officer-Parent

Call to Order

Tom Hockensmith called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm. Introductions were made for attendees.

Public Comment on Agenda

ERC Funds and decision about these funds was asked.

Informed that it will be discussed and voted on at Finance Update.

Old Business

None

Administrator's Report

- Enrollment
 - 274 students, currently enrolled
- Health and Safety Plan was discussed.
 - The need for this plan and updates is based upon the ARP and ESSR grants received.
 - It is reviewed and revised every 6 months.
 - Changes were made:
 - COVID language was updated to read “viruses”
 - No comments were advised from Public
 - Will be approved as part of consent agenda
- Comprehensive plan
 - This is reviewed and revised every 3 years.
 - Reviewed and updated to ensure that we are meeting the needed standards
 - To be voted on next month.
- Induction Plan for staff
 - This is for new teacher onboarding.
 - Going forward the IU will be used in an asynchronous format.
 - It will be updated to include 2 years of support from IU.
 - Additionally, mentor support is being provided as part of the program.
- Professional Development Plan
 - This plan is being developed to include the following topics:
 - Language and Literacy
 - Teaching Diverse Learners
 - Trauma Informed Care
 - Professional Ethics Program
 - Culturally Relevant Program
- Social Worker
 - This is part of the PCCD grant and will be provided via “Connect the Pieces”
 - Format will be virtual using MS Teams platform and include up to 10 hours per week.
 - Tony will be case manager for school.
- Traffic Impact Fee
 - In 2016 when purchasing property a traffic impact study was completed but was to be reassessed. This will be occurring on October 12, 13, 14 at 4pm-6pm
 - \$52K+ estimated cost
 - \$1,600 per trip where a trip is a vehicle
- ERC Funds
 - Will be discussed and voted on under Finance Section
- Helping Hands Committee (Tammy)
 - Book Fair next week
 - 10/2 to 10/6
 - Open House
 - 10/4 (Wednesday)

- Can visit grades at designated times
 - Information Sessions
- Scare Crow competition beginning soon.
- Coffee Fundraiser
- Walking in Gettysburg Parade 10/24/23
 - Wear GMS shirt
 - On sale next week at Open House
- Montessori Student of the month
 - promote kindness
 - Count using WOW dollars
 - Submit male/female
 - All grade levels
 - Thinking of expanding to include staff
 - Students give WOW dollars to teachers
- Spirit Week 10/23 to 10/27
 - In house parade 10/27/23 @ 2PM

Consent Agenda

- Motion: Tom
- Second: Rose
- All in favor, approved

Chair Report

- Board Members please complete mandatory Trauma Training by next board meeting.

Finance Committee - Becky Uppercue

- District revenues are currently below budget and expenses are over budget.
- Fund Balance currently \$1.8million
- No major updates to items including 129 days cash on hand
- PA Coalition - Charter Choices presenting at convention
- ERC Grant Funds
 - Met with SEK, Legal Counsel and Firm that applied for funds
 - Determination is that GMCS is fully eligible
 - Looking to return funds after considering eligibility requirements and advice from counsel and audit firm
 - Motion to vote to return funds:
 - Motion: Tom
 - Second: Becky
 - All in favor, unanimously approved
- Playground
 - Quote \$250K-\$300K
 - Looking at capital improvement funds and grants
 - Grants

- Average \$5K - \$25K
 - Most likely it would be Capital Improvement Funds
- Grant for Shade Structure ~\$8K-\$10K

Governance Committee

- Action items to re-affirm board members
 - Elana King
 - Motion: Rose
 - Second: Tom
 - All in favor, unanimously approved
 - Amy Brown
 - Motion: Rose
 - Second: Traci
 - All in favor, unanimously approved
 - Accepted being Secretary

New business: For the good of the order

None

Public Comment

- Tree Planning still being worked on.
- Coalition Ambassador Program
 - Jason, Rose, Heather
 - Advocate for Charter Schools
 - Attend Day of Action in Harrisburg
- Parent looking to start 7-12 charter school
 - Looking to encompass VIDA and GMCS
 - Help from board to support extension charter school
 - Blended school
 - Brick and Mortar with Cyber component
- Parent looking to add Lego program to technology program in school
- Montessori Moment of the month (suggested)
 - Add to board meeting agenda?
 - Discussion was held to see if appropriate to be a “board” item.

Adjourned at 7:35pm