

*Gettysburg Montessori Charter School Finance Committee Meeting*

*January 17, 2024 at 3:30pm*

*ID: 81428125445*

*Passcode: QY8HF2*

**3:30pm Meeting called to order**

**3:30pm Introduction of Members and guests**

- Jesse Bean, Charter Choices business manager
- Faye Pleso, CEO
- Becky Uppercue, Board Treasurer
- Elena King, Board member at large

**3:31pm Review of December Financial Statements**

- Total Current Assets have remained close to \$2M since June 30th due to combination of an increase in Cash (by \$32K) and District Receivables (by \$144K) and a decrease in State (by \$15K) and Federal Receivables (by \$50K) at 12/31/2023
- Total Current Liabilities at December 31st have decreased to \$73K due to reductions in Accounts Payable (\$12K) and Accrued Payroll (to \$61K)
- The school's construction loan from Members 1st is reflected as a Long-Term Liability of \$3.85M on the Balance Sheet
- The school's Key Performance (financial health) Indicators are generally healthy and trending positively, with short-term data points such as Total Margin (1.2%), Current Ratio (9.9) and Days COH (157.6, as well as long-term figures such as Fund Balance (41.4%) and Debt Ratio (51.4%) all exceeding suggested benchmarks

**Budget vs. Actual**

- After six months of 23-24 budget activity (12/31), District Revenues of \$2.08M are slightly below budget (by \$99K). The school has also received \$122K of an anticipated \$410K in State and Federal Funding for the 23-24 school year
- YTD Expenses of \$2.04M are under budget by \$110K at 12/31, as positive variances on Equipment and Supplies (parking lot improvements, summer equipment purchasing, etc.) are offset by "savings" on Personnel Costs, Professional, Property and Other Purchased Services
- GMCS shows a YTD surplus of \$209,063 through six months, and a Fund Balance of just over \$1.9M. We are currently projecting a modest year-end surplus of \$57,232

**3:43pm New Business**

- News from Charter Choices regarding Enrollment – 2024-2025: With the approach of the end of the ESSER programs (September 2024), there is a renewed focus on enrollment numbers. Charter Choices is now offering a FREE Digital Marketing Audit to our clients. For no cost at all our team will review your SEO rankings, Social Media Ads, Social Media Posts, and Ratings and provide suggestions to improve your online presence
- PA Passes Final 23-24 Budget More 5+ months after original deadline, the PA Legislature sent final 23-24 state budget to Gov Shapiro on 12/13/23, who signed it into law. The

Legislature also passed School Code & Fiscal Code bills to complete the budget process – these bills authorize state agencies (such as PDE) to spend/disseminate funds. The final budget includes a 10.07% increase in Basic Education Funding, a 3.74% increase in Special Education funding, \$295.5M for the Ready to Learn Block Grant and \$80.3M for the Secondary Career and Technical Education Subsidy. The budget also includes new funding for libraries, community colleges, environmental remediation for district buildings and replacement of aging buildings.

**3:45pm Review of imminent development projects and associated costs**

- Dr. Pleso discussed property development and construction costs focused on improving our current space and appeal to continual feedback/requests from staff and families
- Dr. Pleso recently met with Jay Appleton, who supported us throughout our school building project, to discuss project goals
- Dr. Pleso presented and reviewed 2 estimates from Appleton Associates, LLC to the committee to include the following projects:
  - Pave existing stone parking lot
  - “Snake Run” perimeter fencing
  - Driveway entrance barrier gates
  - New East playground
  - Expand existing West playground
  - Prefabricated storage shed + concrete slab
  - 2 Timber framed classroom pavilions (prefab vs. custom) + concrete slabs
  - General Earthwork, Soil Erosion control
- The estimate totals are \$587,235 and \$627,735 with the cost difference being related to prefabricated vs. custom built options for classroom pavilions
- \$40k of PCCD grants in current FY 23-24 budget may be applied to some of this work and other grants from PCCD may be coming available in the coming year that may also assist with offsetting costs; Jesse recognized we have approximately \$2M in savings that we’ve been accruing for potential middle school and further development that we could draw these funds from and still have significant cash on hand for future projects and safety cushion
- Dr. Pleso would like to present these proposals in public board meeting next week; committee members agreed with the plans and recognized that it seems worthwhile to pursue the custom build option for the pavilions in order to maintain flow of Montessori/natural themes and be more personalized

**3:57pm Discussion regarding necessity of Student Activities account**

- Dr. Pleso recognized that our Student Activities account (with \$25k) is generally not being used, as activities are typically paid for out of our general checking account and coded appropriately for general accounting purposes
- Committee agreed that this account may be closed and deposited into our general checking account, where they may continue to be coded appropriately for student activities, fundraising, etc. to account for these funds within our accounting records

**4:00pm No Public Comments**

**4:00pm Meeting Adjourned**

