

MMCS Board Meeting Minutes

6:00 pm

January 10, 2022

255 S. May Street

Southern Pines, NC 28387

In attendance: Ben Greene, Debra Gray, Ronda Hawkins, Taylor Clement as well as school staff Kisha Young, Jennifer Sifford and Katherine Rucker. Paul Murphy and Dave Kilarski on the phone

1. Call to Order at 6:00pm, School's Mission read by Ben.

2. Public Comment:

Mr. Corey Raymond, a parent, spoke on the mask mandate for children of MMCS. He would prefer if the masks were optional.

Sarah Carlson, a parent, spoke about mask wearing and its effectiveness. She commented that Moore Montessori is now the last school in the county requiring students to wear masks. She would prefer if the masks were optional.

3. Updates from Katie:

A. Academic: this first week back from winter break was a successful return for the students and teachers. Attendance was off due to illness from Covid related quarantine. Optional NC State check-ins are this week for older students, they are working on computers which are now required for EOG testing. We have several interns working with our classrooms from SCC. The charter renewal process is proceeding with virtual interviews, tentatively scheduled March 11th.

Lottery update, 206 have signed up in less than 10 days which shows strong interest in the school.

B. Financial:

Ben asked about the over budget spending on Classroom Materials. Katie confirmed that the money is all in one account so accounts don't need to be balanced and we also received 11,000 for a summer reading program which included an additional 5,000 for materials. We have received 80 new computers which will be fully covered by a technology grant.

Katie will be following up with the IRS for SafeHarbor money coming for Q3 and Q4. Rocky added that it has just been approved for Q1 2022 as well.

C. New Campus, 2b Meeting Minutes & Drawing Updates from Tim Martin. Board discussed plans with positive feedback.

D. Board Member Prospect Update, Katie is reaching out to prospects and will keep the board updated by the online spreadsheet. Katie will reach out to our current board members for help with introductions as needed.

4. Board Action

A. Minutes for December 13th Board Meeting: Debra moved to approve both minutes from open and closed session, Ronda seconded and all voted in favor carrying the motion.

B. Indoor Mask Requirement: Rocky presented information from First Health and is waiting for more feedback regarding Covid's effect by age. Taylor added that the statistics for Covid aren't looking good but shared a website with the board on demographics which is positive in regards to the age group we are discussing: nc-covid.org/demographics NCDHHS recommendation is that regardless of who IS or IS NOT wearing a mask, if masks are optional, quarantine is 10 days for everyone in that classroom meaning we are not necessarily voting if we like masks or think they are effective, we are voting to keep kids in school-- therefore Taylor moved to continue masks for our students until our February (2/14/22) meeting, Ronda seconded.

Discussion: Rocky noted that his vote is not because we want the students in masks but that it keeps our students in school and not home in quarantine or learning from home. Ronda added that we could potentially survey our families to determine how challenging a 10 day quarantine would be for our families. Ben added that his experience as an educator, attendance has a significant impact on learning success.

Vote: Six in favor, one abstained and the motion carried.

C. Social Media Policy: Rocky moved to approve the policy as presented and discussed at the last meeting, Paul seconded and all voted in favor carrying the motion.

D. School Year 2022/23 Calendar: Katie mentioned a few details such as Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving is a full day and the return to school after Winter break is a teacher workday before the students return. We are also watching for the Moore County School schedule since we know it is important to families to be on the same schedule as the public schools. We will review it when released and vote on ours next month, Katie welcomes feedback in the meantime.

E. Determination of Bonus Payment; PRC141 funds were partially paid in December which go to almost all school staff, we are working with our attorney to work through that bonus payout. There is an additional state funded amount for teachers only. The PRC 203 is for lead teachers and the full time EC teacher; funding in excess of the approved amount will not be covered. Katie reviewed teacher training that has been done which can be used as eligibility for that bonus. Taylor moved to define Full time for the purposes of the PRC 203 Bonus as Lead teachers and EC teacher, Rocky seconded and all voted in favor carrying the motion. Debra moved to approve the training on 11/20/20, 10/2/20 as qualifications for PRC 203, Rocky seconded and all voted in favor carrying the motion.

Adjournment: Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting and Ronda seconded. All voted in favor and the meeting ended at 6:51pm. Next Meeting is Feb 14, 2022.