

Coastal Montessori Charter School

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, April 11th, 2016 ~ 6:00 PM

BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

The following members of the Board were present:

Kristin Bohan, Jason Hendrix, Rob Horvath, Cathy Scott, Scott Steffen, and Rachel Tomovski

The following Board members were absent:

Gene Mannella and Stella Mercado

OTHER ATTENDEES

Nathalie Hunt, CMCS Principal

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Mr. Rob Horvath, called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.

COMPLIANCE WITH FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

Chair, Mr. Horvath read aloud the FOIA statement.

READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Board Secretary, Ms. Rachel Tomovski, read aloud the CMCS mission statement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND THE MARCH MINUTES

Mr. Scott Steffen made a motion to accept both April's agenda and the March Minutes (previously circulated) as presented. Dr. Cathy Scott seconded the motion. The Board VOTED unanimously to approve both agenda and minutes, and the motion passed.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Nathalie Hunt shared the following information with the Board:

2016-17 Enrollment is at 227 students, with an additional 69 students currently waitlisted, grades one through six.

Dr. Hunt shared trending data regarding the wait list and family retention, from 2012 to present, and the Board agreed that CMCS is trending in the right direction. The wait list has steadily increased, and retention has improved each year.

There are three vendors competing for the furniture contract to outfit the new building. Dr. Hunt stated that she would feel extremely comfortable with any of the three. Orders will need to be placed by the beginning of May.

Regarding Food Services for the new building, Dr. Hunt is awaiting an email from the GCSD point person on this. Her goal is to have two lunch services, and that is what she will ask for.

They are planning the playground for the new property with Carolina Streetscapes, and the goal is to use recycled materials instead of metal or wood. Though the price point will be slightly higher, recycled materials will ensure that the philosophy of CMCS is reflected in the playground. In addition, these materials will last longer, and be safer and more comfortable.

Dr. Hunt is also looking into what the CMCS community can do to reduce the cost. She has asked the company to let her know what volunteers can do without jeopardizing the liability, such as spreading mulch. Dr. Kristin Bohan shared that there is an Orthopedic Surgeon's Community Service Group who have offered to put together the equipment, once purchased.

Dr. Hunt is on stage three of the hiring process. Positions to be filled include one Lower Elementary Lead and two Middle School Leads. Stage one was to complete and return several documents. Stage two was to answer some pre-interview questions. Stage three is presenting a lesson. Eleven candidates will be presenting lessons this week and next, including some who are Montessori certified and/or state certified.

Dr. Hunt proposes that CMCS model both Student/Parent and Staff Handbooks after those of East Cooper Montessori Charter School, copies of which were previously circulated. ECMCS has been in existence for 14 years. They also have a stand-alone Student Conduct Policy Handbook, which Dr. Hunt would like the Board to consider for CMCS. She believes that more transparency is needed for families and CMCS is prepared to provide it at this time. She wishes these to be available on the website and ready for presentation in August during registration. Her goal is to have a CMCS version of the books in time for the Board's June meeting.

Finally, Dr. Hunt proposed a fourth charter goal be added to the existing three CMCS charter goals, which would speak to the new CMCS Secondary I program. She suggested that this goal be measurable and attainable, in addition to being relevant to both the middle school student and the Montessori Secondary I training. As this training and specific curriculum will not be released to CMCS until a teacher candidate is enrolled and payment has been made, she suggests waiting until such time, before determining the specifics of the fourth charter goal.

Dr. Bohan offered that it should not necessarily be that the goal follows the curriculum, but rather that the curriculum follows the goal, and that it should not need to be limited necessarily to something quantitative. She feels confident that if the goal ends up being of a more qualitative nature, CMCS will find a way to measure it. Per Chair Horvath, a committee will be formed to have a think tank for determining a suitable middle school charter goal.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer, Mr. Jason Hendrix, facilitated the FIRST READING of the FY-17 BUDGET.

Dr. Hunt told the Board that she is holding off on a technology request in the amount of approximately \$19K for at least fifty Chromebooks and two charging carts. She will submit the request once it has been determined what will be worked out with the District regarding technology. Mr. Hendrix asked if she plans to lease the machines or buy them outright. Dr. Hunt emphasized that whichever they decide, they must ensure the machines are NOT refurbished, but completely new, as they had a lot of trouble this year with that. She promised to send all the quotes to both Mr. Hendrix and Chair Horvath. She assured the Board that her decision for Chromebooks is based on ample research and that the District is also moving in this direction.

Regarding the facilities funding the District stands to receive, which will be based on recommendations made by the consultants at MB Kahn, Dr. Hunt, Chair Horvath, and Mr. Gene Mannella did attend the meeting at which a draft plan for the funds was presented. They will be attending a second meeting next Tuesday, where they will be able to ask questions. Chair Horvath told the Board he would have more information on this issue next month.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to be transacted, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Tomovski
CMCS Board Secretary