

# Coastal Montessori Charter School

## Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, August 10, 2015 ~ 6:00 PM

### **BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL**

The following members of the Board were present:

Lynne Ford, Jason Hendrix, Rob Horvath, Pamela Martin, Stella Mercado, Scott Steffen, and Rachel Tomovski

The following members of the Board were absent:

Kristin Alford, Kristin Bohan, Mary Bryan, Gene Mannella, and Martha Propps

Other Attendees:

Dr. Nathalie Hunt, CMCS Director

Dr. Catherine Scott, incoming Board Member

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Mr. Rob Horvath, called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

### **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 JUNE MINUTES**

Ms. Stella Mercado made a motion to accept both this month's agenda as well as last month's minutes (as previously circulated.) Ms. Lynne Ford seconded it. The Board VOTED unanimously and the agenda and minutes were approved.

### **DIRECTOR REPORT**

Dr. Nathalie Hunt reported the following enrollment numbers for the start of this school year: 197 students enrolled; 64 students waitlisted (45 in LE, 19 in UE) - 7 of whom represent diversity. Currently there is still no preference given to these students, but Dr. Hunt assured the Board that the lobbying continues. The target for diversity in the CMCS population is 20%. As of this report, CMCS has achieved 8.15%.

She also shared that there were eight eligible students who opted out this year for various reasons. One African American did withdraw due to the fact that transportation proved to be too great of a challenge.

Moving on to discuss Testing, Dr. Hunt reported that the scores have been received for ACT Aspire and PASS, as well as the CAT tests, and the outcomes are favorable. The staff will be looking at growth. ACT Aspire and PASS scores will be provided to families September 23<sup>rd</sup>, as per the District.

The Board was updated on new South Carolina Department of Education requirements: The Education Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) has been introduced (a nationally used system.) This will be used to track individual student progress and evaluate the school's effectiveness. Each lead teacher will claim all her students' instructional time, except for those students with IEP's or who have accumulated more than eighteen absences. Charter schools will use this system in addition to the internal systems already in place.

CMCS will be incorporating the District's Student Learning Objectives (SLO's) which are tied to ADEPT, into their evaluation process. This is a growth model which involves mentoring, and the setting and monitoring of student academic goals.

Dr. Hunt reported that there are new ELA and Math standards for 2015 – 2016. CMCS teachers worked with Dr. Catherine Scott from Coastal Carolina University this summer to create new math homework booklets for the students.

With regards to the Read to Succeed Initiative, Dr. Hunt has learned that Charter Schools are actually exempt from the requirement to have a Literacy Coach. However, CMCS will retain this part time position as it has proven to be very valuable and will continue to be paid for through the Initiative.

Dr. Hunt reported the following spending: \$1000 per classroom for new Montessori materials; new leveled readers and more library books; Social Studies Weekly Subscriptions; Wordly Wise and Analogies Books; and student planners.

Dr. Hunt has developed a salary formula, which she shared with the board and which she will use as a guideline as much as possible going forward, to ensure equality, and to honor the effectiveness and the experience of her staff. This year, she intends to raise four salaries using money from elsewhere in the budget where it is not needed.

GCSD has not yet responded to the Middle School Packet that CMCS submitted, however Dr. Hunt assured the Board that she is moving forward with the Middle School plans. The teaching positions have been posted and there has been a lot of interest. She had a very informative meeting with a Montessori Middle School and High School expert this summer.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Chair, Rob Horvath, asked the Board to welcome Dr. Catherine Scott to its membership and to thank those stepping off at this time: Kristin Alford, Mary Bryan, Pamela Martin, and Martha Propps.

Ms. Stella Mercado made a motion to renew all current officers in their same positions for another term. Ms. Ford seconded the motion.

**The Board VOTED** unanimously and the motion passed. Robert Horvath will continue to serve as Chair, Scott Steffen as Vice Chair, Jason Hendrix as Treasurer, and Rachel Tomovski as Secretary.

Chair Horvath reported that Nikki Toomes has strongly encouraged the Facilities Committee to consider requesting an additional loan, resulting in a total of \$6,627,200. The current interest rate is 3.6%, and if the additional fund ends up not being needed, CMCS will not be obligated to borrow them.

Mr. Scott Steffen made a motion to approve an increase in the USDA loan as per the recommendation of the Facilities Committee. Mr. Jason Hendrix seconded the motion. **The Board VOTED** and the motion passed.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chair Horvath reported that after entertaining several bids, the Facilities Committee has decided on enlisting the services of FBI for construction. The District is pleased with this choice and the USDA has a contract that CMCS will use. FBI assures the committee that they can be ready to start in two weeks. They are planning 60 days for clearing and 300 days for construction. They will begin with the classrooms to ensure as much moving in time as possible.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business to be transacted, Ms. Tomovski made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Steffen seconded the motion. The Board VOTED unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rachel Tomovski  
CMCS Board Secretary