

Coastal Montessori Charter School

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, March 9, 2015 ~ 6:00 PM

BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

The following members of the Board were present:

Kristin Alford, Kristin Bohan, Mary Bryan, , Rob Horvath, Gene Mannella, Pamela Martin, Stella Mercado, and Rachel Tomovski

The following members of the Board were absent:

Lynne Ford, Jason Hendrix, Martha Propps, and Scott Steffen

Other Attendees:

Dr. Nathalie Hunt, CMCS Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Mr. Rob Horvath, called the meeting to order at 6:01 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

Ms. Kristin Alford made a motion to accept the agenda and Ms. Stella Mercado seconded it. The Board VOTED unanimously and the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

Dr. Pam Martin made a motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Mr. Gene Mannella seconded the motion and the Board VOTED unanimously to approve the February minutes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Nathalie Hunt reported that the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee has announced that South Carolina schools will not receive letter grade reports for the next two years. Since the state has decided they will not be using the same vendor for the assessment tool next year, no change in grades will be publicized. However, the individual schools will still receive feedback regarding proficiency that they can use for curriculum development.

Dr. Hunt shared with the Board that she is ready to order the CAT testing, referred to in the Charter goals. This test comes out of California and assesses the students' critical thinking, or soft, skills - also known as the Seven Survival Skills. CMCS has budgeted \$2500 for this year's CAT testing. Students who are in their third year at CMCS will take the tests. There are two of them. The first test is fifteen minutes. The second test has twenty-four questions, so they are not exhaustive and should be fun. The teachers are excited to see what they will show about CMCS students' critical thinking abilities.

Dr. Hunt reported that she has updated the CMCS Discipline Policy to include a piece taken from Positive Discipline (Nelson 1981), regarding natural consequences as a way to earn back trust that has been lost. Nelson's "Four R's" require that the consequence be related, respectful, reasonable, and related in advance. This addition is currently being reviewed, along with the culture piece that Dr. Hunt has added to the Community Handbook, by attorneys.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Gene Mannella reviewed the **February 2015 budget report** with the Board. Treasurer, Jason Hendrix, added some new line items, breaking out some of the costs for clarity. Some questions did arise during discussion, and Mr. Mannella and Chair Horvath will follow up with CMCS accountant, Bill Moser.

Mr. Mannella shared the first reading of the updated **FY-16 Budget**. It continues to be based on 192 students, though Dr. Hunt reported that the actual number will likely be 200. Mr. Mannella explained this would provide some cushioning.

Dr. Hunt shared with the Board, that after doing a cost-benefit analysis of the After School programming, she has determined that it is losing money (\$11K) every year. She has decided not to offer it next year. Only five percent of families are taking advantage of the Aftercare program and the school often has trouble collecting the fees. She plans to continue to offer a variety of extracurricular activities for cost. She also agreed to look into outsourcing after school care to the YMCA.

Chair Horvath reported that CMCS facility plans were submitted to the Office of School Facilities for approval of the schematic design on December 15th; however there has still been no response. James Rice, from SGA, continues to call OSF, but as of last week the project had not yet been assigned to anyone. He is going ahead with the next stage and will submit the engineering plans as soon as they are ready, even if he has still not heard. Mr. Rice also assured Chair Horvath that he is already working on securing whatever permits he can at this point. The current construction estimate is ten months to build. They plan to start bidding the job in May or June.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to be transacted, Ms. Stella Mercado made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Mary Bryan seconded the motion. The Board VOTED unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Tomovski
CMCS Board Secretary