

Coastal Montessori Charter School

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 10, 2013 ~ 6:00 PM

BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

The following members of the Board were present:

Kristin Alford, Chris Bird, Kristin Bohan, Bo Bryan, Jason Hendrix, Rob Horvath, Camilla Parker, and Rachel Tomovski

The following members of the Board were absent:

Lynne Ford, Pamela Grant, Laura Lee, Gene Mannella, Stella Mercado, and Martha Propps

Other Attendees:

Bill Moser, CMCS Accountant

Nathalie Hunt, CMCS Principal

Charles Swenson, Coastal Observer

Mary Bryan, newly elected Board member

Pam Martin, newly elected Board member

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Horvath called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

COMPLIANCE WITH FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

Chairman Horvath read aloud the FOIA statement.

READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Tomovski read aloud the CMCS mission statement.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Board VOTED to approve the agenda with the following change: the final reading of the Budget would be presented by Bill Moser instead of Jason Hendrix.

APPROVAL OF MAY'S MINUTES

The Board VOTED to approve the minutes from the May meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Nathalie Hunt reported that current enrollment for next year is 167. Several 3rd and 4th grade students are currently on the waiting list. The office staff continues to work through

the summer. The office is being relocated to make room for the additional upper elementary classroom. The classrooms are all being cleaned. Dr. Hunt has all the materials and furniture chosen and ready to order for the new class as soon as the funds become available. Dr. Kristin Bohan clarified that CMCS is still waiting for the letter granting the P&I funds for reimbursement of these expenses, and that any invoices should be dated post July 1st, 2013.

CMCS welcomes four new employees. Dr. Hunt shared that she has met many of the CMCS families and they seem very candid and open, willing to share ideas. She has been getting to know the students and they are very receptive to her.

Dr. Hunt reported that she has focused on data collection in each class, these first couple of weeks. She has looked at the organization of work – both of the teacher and the students, how they input data, and their pedagogy. She had the teachers and the assistants all participate in a survey. After collecting all her data by May 31st, Dr. Hunt met with the leads and ranked their top three priorities, keeping the Charter in mind. She was pleased to note that the leads and the assistants shared the same priorities: school wide grace and courtesy; curriculum; and professional development.

Dr. Hunt reported that she is going to work on updating the Parent Handbook for next year. This new Community Handbook will showcase CMCS and all it offers.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Bill Moser shared the final reading of the FY-14 Budget with the Board for their approval, with the following comments: the current budget is based on assumptions and information known as of today; it is consistent with that of the 2nd reading; the budget that will be presented at the October board meeting will be more realistic; and finally, this budget is put before the Board for approval, knowing that it will be amended over the next few months.

Chairman, Rob Horvath, suggested that in lieu of a July board meeting, the Board, along with the new principal, Dr. Nathalie Hunt, and the newly elected board members, meet for a Board Retreat on a Saturday. The purpose of said retreat would be to orient Dr. Hunt and clarify expectations the head of school and the board have of each other, reviewing Board Governance principles.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board VOTED:

To approve the FY-14 Budget, as presented.

The Board VOTED:

To approve the cancelation of the July board meeting and to schedule a retreat instead.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kristin Bohan updated the Board on the USDA Loan application process. She explained that it is a community facilities loan and therefore CMCS must demonstrate that they are building a facility that meets a need. All required pieces for Columbia have been turned in. The next steps are a Financial Feasibility Study and a Preliminary Architectural Review. Once these are complete, the application will go to Washington. Dr. Bohan reported that a group had met this past Saturday with the CPA who has agreed to prepare the Feasibility Report. She also shared that Ms Nickie Toomes, our contact at the USDA Walterboro Service Center, is very supportive of CMCS and excited about the project.

Chairman Rob Horvath reported that CMCS continues to move forward with the SGA, the architectural firm, on the property and building plans. However, they are being cautious about spending too much before all things are more certain. The woodpecker study revealed that only one tree has a new colony, and it seems many of the colonies have migrated away from the proposed building site. The study of the wetlands showed there to be no change.

Mr. Horvath reported the results of the Board Election to be as follows: 91% voted for the slate as presented. Ms Camilla Parker and Mr. Chris Bird will be stepping down. The CMCS Board can have as many as 15 members. Ms Mary Bryan, Ms Pam Martin, and Mr. Scott Steffen will be taking office officially at the August board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no additional comments.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Tomovski
CMCS Board Secretary