

# *Coastal Montessori Charter School*

## *Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*

*Monday, October 14th, 2013 ~ 6:00 PM*

### **BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL**

The following members of the Board were present:

Kristin Alford, Kristin Bohan, Bo Bryan, Jason Hendrix, Rob Horvath, Laura Lee, Pamela Martin, Stella Mercado, and Martha Propps, Scott Steffen via telephone, and Rachel Tomovski

The following members of the Board were absent:

Mary Bryan, Lynne Ford, Pamela Grant, and Gene Mannella

Other Attendees:

Nathalie Hunt, CMCS Principal

Luiz Yamashita, MSPI Long Range Planning

Charles Swenson, Coastal Observer

Tommy Starling, CMCS Capital Campaign Committee

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **COMPLIANCE WITH FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)**

Mr. Horvath read aloud the FOIA statement.

### **READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT**

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

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The Board VOTED to approve the agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER'S MINUTES**

The Board VOTED to approve the minutes from the September 2013 meeting.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Nathalie Hunt presented the board with the following updates:

Recruitment

Open Enrollment continues through December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Further to the CMCS mission to have a more diverse population, Dr. Hunt invited some current families to be spokespeople in their communities. All asked were willing.

Dr. Hunt met with Pawleys Island Civic Club Child Development about having a Montessori table at high traffic times. They are considering her request.

Teach My People has granted CMCS a table at their Town Meeting and then two weeks later, onsite for demonstrations.

The Georgetown YMCA is considering allowing a table at their center.

She has also approached Andrews businesses and the executive director at Choppee Head Start offered his support. Dr. Hunt invited the staff from PICCCD and CHS to visit CMCS.

#### Charter Amendment

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Hunt met with the Upper Elementary parents regarding a Middle School option for CMCS. The parents all expressed considerable interest. She is working with Mary Carmichael to determine the process for this. In order to add seventh grade for 2014-2015, lots of help would be needed with research, writing, and editing for a Charter revision.

#### Reading Proficiency

Dr. Hunt told the Board she is bringing in new tools to help CMC get closer to this goal. She is training both leads and assistants on how to keep running records, using leveled readers with symbols to show which strategies students are using to read. This practice informs the teacher about what strategies should be introduced.

With regards to the MAP testing, Dr. Hunt explained that they would be changing the environment for this. Originally CMCS used a web based program, but that had resulted in too many glitches. Going forward, they will join the District in using a server based program. Dr. Hunt was asked how many other schools nationwide are using MAP and she promised to look into it. She was given her Enrich login and can now begin to track progress.

Another tool they will be using is the Six Plus Traits of Writing. Dr. Hunt explained that it uses graphic organizers and rubrics, and works well with Montessori. Students can continue to self-direct, but it increases the expectation.

#### Reducing the Achievement Gap

Dr. Hunt has created a new progress report for the teachers to use. It has two different Likart scales to show student progress socially, emotionally, work habits, and academic progress.

Teachers will use rubrics which will explicitly state and model in all the content areas what exemplary work looks like. Dr. Hunt is working with the teachers to develop these rubrics, so that everyone will feel a sense of ownership and so that there will be consistency among teachers and grade levels.

Literary strategies include text to text, text to world, and text to self, connections.

### Cultivating the Seven Survival Skills

Dr. Hunt reported that all the Community Connections student groups have kicked off. There is an online sign up form at [volunteerspot.com](http://volunteerspot.com) for people wishing to help out. These task groups provide students with opportunities for creativity, planning and implementation.

Students also develop these survival skills through their use of graphic organizers, participation in Peace Table talks, and giving presentations. Dr. Bohan added that once CMCS has had students who have completed a three year cycle, an assessment tool will be implemented that measures the seven survival skills, which is the hallmark of a Montessori education.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Scott Steffen reported that Nancy Cave from the Coastal Conservation League invited the Facilities Committee to a courtesy meeting, allowing them to communicate directly with each other. She had some concerns about the use of the land and the potential development in the future of the entire tract of land. The committee shared with Ms Cave about Montessori's connection to the environment and desire to preserve it. They left her with assurances that CMCS understands her cause and the school is an ideal caretaker for this land. Ms Cave made it clear to the committee that the Coastal Conservation League is not opposed to the school.

Dr. Kristin Bohan reported that the USDA people were in town for a Ribbon Cutting ceremony and they came a day early so that they could spend three hours at CMCS. They were very impressed and excited about the school. Dr. Bohan said that due to the government shutdown, the loan application is in a holding pattern. They are still waiting for the final woodpecker letter and another study may be required.

Dr. Bohan, Tommy Starling and Barb Royal formed a committee to put together the Capital Campaign and it officially kicks off today. Pledges received by October 25<sup>th</sup> can be part of the USDA loan application's five percent contribution. The pledges from local supporters combined with fixed assets and soft costs that CMCS has already paid for will help to ensure approval. Each board member was given a packet of materials for themselves and three to give to others. Dr. Bohan announced that to date, she has received hard commitments in the amount of \$77,500. Business partners so far include:

- \$20K video/marketing package from Suzanne Evans Company
- Mercom Technology package from Stella Mercado
- Waccamaw Brick package from Chad Redwine

Chair Rob Horvath announced the Public Charter School Alliance of SC Conference scheduled for November 3 – 5, 2013. CMCS has several board members, as well as Dr. Hunt and Dr. Cafaro, who are planning to attend. A Board Orientation is available on November 3<sup>rd</sup> for anyone who has not yet completed one.

**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 7:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rachel Tomovski  
CMCS Board Secretary