

Coastal Montessori Charter School

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, September 12th, 2016 ~ 6:00 PM

BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

The following members of the Board were present:

Kristin Bohan, Rob Horvath, Gene Mannella, Cathy Scott, Scott Steffen, and Rachel Tomovski

The following Board members were absent:

Jason Hendrix and Stella Mercado

OTHER ATTENDEES

Nathalie Hunt, CMCS Principal

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Mr. Rob Horvath, called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 AUGUST MINUTES

Mr. Scott Steffen made a motion to accept both September's agenda, and the August Minutes (previously circulated.) 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 reported that student test scores for SC PASS and SC Ready are slated to go home to families on Friday. She went on to share some of her findings regarding the test results. These tests were administered online and that did seem to present some challenges, especially for younger students who have less experience with keyboarding. She feels that it is necessary to incorporate more technology training for CMCS students so that they will feel more comfortable with this format. She plans to have them publish more writing works and learn keyboarding skills (used to be a Middle School course, but

now needs to be introduced as early as second grade.) The new writing test gave many students difficulty as it is very different from what they'd seen in the past. Where before they had been asked to write a creative response to a prompt, now they are being asked to read and respond to a long passage, using evidence directly from the passage to support their response. Dr. Hunt assured the board that writing would be a SLO goal this year. Students overall performed well in ELA, Science and Social Studies. Of all the test scores, those in Upper Elementary math, appear to be the most cause for concern. Dr. Hunt reported that Upper Elementary math scores are not trending in the right direction, and she will be meeting with her team and further analyzing the data, looking for the gaps, and the best ways to address them. Her next step is to disaggregate the data for scholars who have been at CMCS for three years. She plans to investigate the pacing of the Montessori math curriculum in comparison with the District and make the necessary adjustments. Dr. Scott shared that she has offered and continues to offer her services, and that CCU has many resources to assist in training the teachers. Dr. Hunt assured the board that she is willing to require the teachers participate in mandatory math professional development if that is found to be needed.

Regarding the move to the new facility, Dr. Hunt reported that CMCS will be purchasing furniture through Herald Office Solutions (the company that outfitted the Middle School environment) and the plan is to pay cash and then reimburse the account.

Dr. Hunt reported a current Middle School enrollment of nineteen seventh graders, under the direction of three teachers, and the feedback has all been very positive. They have scheduled their first overnight class trip for October 6th. She explained that Middle School scholars will receive letter grades using the new ten point scale established by SCDE (also adopted by the District.)

Marketing for Open Enrollment this year will include the following:

- Two smaller billboards (instead of the newspaper ads used last year.) One is on the way to Walmart and the other Maryville.
- Two postcard mailers (down from three last year.) These will target specific addresses in Georgetown proper.
- The CMCS brochure is being revised to include the fourth charter goal and the addition of 8th grade.
- An Open House will be held in the new building in December.
- Visits to churches and Head Start programs.
- Showcasing parent and student testimonies in the community newsletter during open enrollment.
- Focus on increasing Middle School enrollment.

FACILITY UPDATE

Chair Horvath reported that he and Dr. Hunt had presented to GCSD last week. They shared pictures of the progress being made with the building and answered questions

pertaining to budget and timelines. The staff was able to tour the building last week, and everyone is excited.

Chair Horvath told the board that the project is on budget, and that they are looking to convert the CNB construction loan to USDA permanent financing for \$6.6 million sometime in late September or early October. Current interest rates are 2.75%.

The OSF final inspection is scheduled for October 18th, and if everything is approved, CMCS will move over the week of November 7th, with the first day of school in the new facility scheduled for Monday, November 14th, 2016.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Prior to the meeting, Treasurer, Jason Hendrix and Mr. Mannella reviewed the budget and circulated copies to all board members. There were no questions raised.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to be transacted, Mr. Steffen moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. Scott seconded. The Board VOTED unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Tomovski
CMCS Board Secretary