

# *Coastal Montessori Charter School*

## *Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*

*Monday, February 10th, 2014 ~ 6:00 PM*

### **BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL**

The following members of the Board were present:

Kristin Alford, Kristin Bohan, Bo Bryan, Mary Bryan, Jason Hendrix, Rob Horvath, Laura Lee, Gene Mannella, Pamela Martin, Martha Propps, and Rachel Tomovski

The following members of the Board were absent:

Lynne Ford, Pamela Grant, Stella Mercado, and Scott Steffen

Other Attendees:

Charles Swensen, Coastal Observer

Luiz Yamashita, MSPI Board of Directors

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Rob Horvath, called the meeting to order at 6:04 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**

Dr. Pam Martin made a motion to approve the agenda, with the addition of an executive session. Mr. Gene Mannella seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED to approve the agenda, including an Executive Session.

### **APPROVAL OF JANUARY'S MINUTES**

Ms Kristin Alford made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2014 meeting. Ms Martha Propps seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED to approve the minutes from the January 2014 meetings.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Nathalie Hunt could not attend the meeting; however her report was previously circulated to the Board. It included the following:

CMCS will not participate in the Academic Fair this year, as there is a lot of preparation required to be able to represent well. CMCS will send a committee of teachers, parents,

and students to the event in order to gather firsthand knowledge of the event for next year.

PASS Testing begins in March. Volunteers will serve as monitors and will be trained according to State guidelines, by Dr. Hunt.

Dr. Hunt has ordered test manuals for the tests referred to in the Charter that will evaluate student progress in the areas of executive functions. They are a one year subscription and she is currently negotiating costs with the company. Potentially, this test will be administered in May.

CMCS has requested an additional classroom for next year in order to add the fourth Upper Elementary class that is planned for in the Charter. If the space is not available, the current Upper Elementary classes will each rise to 28 students. If the classroom request is granted, class size will remain at 25 and the 4 fourth grade students currently on the wait list plus one more will be invited in.

CMCS is a tour school on Friday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, for participants attending the Montessori Educational Programs International Conference held at Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort. Ten staff members will attend the conference on Saturday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. CMCS teachers: Amber, Antoinette, and Sarah are presenting at the conference.

The Riley Institute at Furman University is doing a five year study on public Montessori education. CMCS was selected to be an observation school.

The American Montessori Society is holding their annual conference in Dallas, Texas March 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and Dr. Hunt, along with CMCS teachers: Amber, Ally and Heather will be attending.

Dr. Hunt will attend Clemson University's Teacher Job Fair March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. CMCS will be recruiting one Upper Elementary teacher and possibly an additional Teaching Assistant. She plans to advertise through the Houston based Montessori certification program.

### **LIBRARY UPDATE**

Ms Laura Lee reported the library is striving for an exemplary rating, but is currently considered at risk. Due to space constraints, CMCS does not have the number of books needed for the higher rating. Currently at 11.6 books per child, the goal is 15 books per child. The library is on track with the budget of 10K per year. In the future, a full time library media specialist will be needed. Next year, the part time Spanish and Art teachers will take over the library's daily operations.

### **FACILITY UPDATE**

Chair Horvath reported that the committee has identified a few pieces of property and has reached out to some real estate agents; in preparation should they have to abandon the Long Leaf Pines contract.

### **INFORMATION ITEM**

Chair Horvath reported that Georgetown County School District has approved a three year calendar.

**GRADE EXPANSION**

Chair Horvath asked the Board to consider forming a committee to look into Middle School and report back to Dr. Hunt and the Board with their findings and their recommendations.

**ACTION ITEM**

Ms Martha Propps made a motion to form an ad hoc committee to study and report back to the board with recommendations including, but not limited to, the feasibility, the costs, and the benefits of expanding CMCS through middle school.

Ms Mary Bryan seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED and the motion was carried.

The Grade Expansion Committee will be comprised of the following Board Members:

Rachel Tomovski

Kristin Bohan

Pamela Martin

Kristin Alford

The Board VOTED and the above committee was approved.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Horvath requested a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the property contract. Dr. Martin made the motion and Ms Laura Lee seconded it.

The Board VOTED to move to Executive Session at 6:45 PM.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

At the conclusion of the discussion, Ms Propps made a motion to move out of Executive Session. Dr. Martin seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED to return to Open Session at 7:20 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no additional comments.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business to be transacted, Dr. Martin made the motion to adjourn. Ms Alford seconded the motion. The Board VOTED and the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rachel Tomovski  
CMCS Board Secretary