

# Coastal Montessori Charter School

## Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, January 12, 2015 ~ 6:00 PM

### **BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL**

The following members of the Board were present:

Kristin Bohan, Mary Bryan, Lynne Ford, Jason Hendrix, Rob Horvath, Gene Mannella, Pamela Martin via teleconference, Martha Propps, and Rachel Tomovski

The following members of the Board were absent:

Kristin Alford, Stella Mercado, and Scott Steffen

Other Attendees:

Dr. Nathalie Hunt, CMCS Director

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Mr. Rob Horvath, called the meeting to order at 6:03 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**

Mr. Gene Mannella made a motion to accept the agenda, and Mr. Jason Hendrix seconded it. The Board VOTED unanimously and the agenda was approved.

### **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES**

Ms. Lynne Ford made a motion to approve minutes from the December meeting. Mr. Mannella seconded the motion and the Board VOTED unanimously to approve the December minutes.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Nathalie Hunt reported that the current wait list has 29 students on it. The Admission Lottery was held on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. The following board members were present: Rob Horvath, Rachel Tomovski, and Kristin Alford. The proceedings were recorded on paper simultaneously by Chair Horvath and Secretary Tomovski, as well as video recorded for You Tube and the CMCS website. 32 first graders were admitted for the

2015-2016 academic year, leaving 4 students on the wait list. There are 26 students on the wait list in other grades for next year, 12 of which are for Upper Elementary grades.

Dr. Hunt reported that the State Department of Education has announced that the new required standardized test model they have adopted for third through sixth grades is called ACT Aspire. This will replace the PASS exam for this year in those grades. The dates are as follows: April 28<sup>th</sup> for Writing/English; April 29<sup>th</sup> for Reading; April 30<sup>th</sup> for Math; with Make Up testing available through May 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Hunt will be doing four Webinar trainings, two hours each, in preparation for coordinating the testing. She said that fourth through sixth grades will also do the Science PASS model on May 7<sup>th</sup> and the Social Studies PASS on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

With regards to the data from this new test, Dr. Hunt said it will not be possible to relate this year's scores to those of past years, since the vendor and the tests are different, and the benchmark will have changed. She also shared that the contract with this vendor is only for one year, so it is likely the State will change it again next year.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Dr. Hunt asked the Board if any concerns or questions had arisen, while reviewing the Human Resources Policy Manual that had been previously circulated. Mr. Mannella asked about the issue of nepotism. Dr. Hunt responded that she believes it to be simply an issue of disclosure, but she will confirm with Mary Carmichael and let the Board know. Chair Horvath raised the question of having a Salary Schedule, as is referred to in the document.

It was determined that there are a number of items which may need to be personalized for CMCS, so it would be best to form a Policy Committee, which will be responsible for reviewing and editing the manuals. Mr. Mannella offered to proof the entire document. Chair Horvath requested that all members who can, read it and email any questions that arise.

**Ms. Martha Propps and Ms. Mary Bryan agreed to join Chair Horvath in forming the Policy Committee.**

Dr. Pam Martin inquired about Annual Reviews for teachers and how they connect to salary increases. Dr. Hunt will share her process with the Board at the next meeting.

Chair Horvath suggested the Board evaluate the current process for accommodating Sibling Preference in the Admission Lottery. As soon as one sibling gets drawn, the other siblings are automatically added to the list. Therefore when there are families with multiple children applying for the same grade, they actually increase the probability of their name being drawn, because they have more than one entry. Some Boards have passed a resolution that each family only gets put in the lottery once per grade. The Board agreed to consider such a resolution before next year's lottery.

Mr. Jason Hendrix shared the **December 2014 Budget Report** and reviewed it with the board.

### **FACILITY UPDATE**

Chair Horvath reported that CMCS has signed a loan agreement with Conway National Bank for the interim financing. The bank agreed to reduce the commitment fee to half a percent, coming down from their original offer of one percent.

The Facility Committee has a meeting scheduled for next week with SGA to review the final budget plans.

They have submitted the building plans to the Office of School Facilities and are waiting for their approval.

Dr. Kristin Bohan shared that Ms. Stella Mercado, on behalf of Mercom Corporation, gifted the CMCS Capital Campaign with the largest donation to date, that of \$50,000. Naming rights for the CMCS Media Center will be awarded to Mercom, in appreciation of their generous donation. Mercom also donated to Low Country Preparatory School and Teach My People. Their public relations person will arrange a press conference, to be held at Mercom, with children from the three organizations.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business to be transacted, Ms. Propps made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Mannella seconded the motion. The Board VOTED unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rachel Tomovski  
CMCS Board Secretary