

Coastal Montessori Charter School

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, November 12th, 2015 ~ 6:00 PM

BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

The following members of the Board were present:

Kristin Bohan, Jason Hendrix, Rob Horvath, and Rachel Tomovski

The following members of the Board were absent:

Gene Mannella, Stella Mercado, Cathy Scott, and Scott Steffen

OTHER ATTENDEES

Nathalie Hunt, CMCS Director

Charles Swenson, Coastal Observer

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Mr. Rob Horvath, called the meeting to order at 6:08 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 OCTOBER MINUTES

Chair Rob Horvath stated that this meeting would be information only, due to the lack of a quorum present.

INFORMATION ITEM

Chair Horvath informed the Board of Lynne Ford's resignation from the Board of Directors, effective immediately.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Nathalie Hunt reported the following numbers regarding enrollment: CMCS currently has 194 students with 40 students on the waitlist for 2015-16; 51 enrollment applications have been received to date for 2016-17 (29 of which are for first grade and 32 are needed to result in the requirement of a lottery.)

Dr. Hunt reported that 7 families completed applications on site during the Community Open House and that 7 families took an application with them when they left that night.

Dr. Bohan asked if it is required by law that families on the current year's wait list complete a new application for the upcoming year. She pointed out that if CMCS could make the process more customer service oriented and user friendly, it would likely result

in more families feeling encouraged to renew their application. Dr. Hunt will send Carol at the Public Charter School Alliance of SC an email to inquire.

Dr. Hunt shared that she will be at Teach My People on November 30th to speak with parents as they pick up their children, providing information about CMCS and open enrollment. Dr. Bohan asked if CMCS students could also be present to speak with the children there and demonstrate Montessori materials. Dr. Hunt will look into it.

Dr. Hunt informed the Board that the music teacher turned in her resignation, effective immediately. She took a full time position elsewhere. A replacement has been hired for the remainder of this school year, during which time they will determine if it is a good fit for him. While highly qualified in the subject matter, the elementary classroom is a new setting for him.

Dr. Hunt shared that in order to be able to renew her New York State director's professional credential when necessary; she will need to complete 87.5 hours of Professional Development over the next six years. She is looking into various options.

Dr. Hunt reported that one of the Teaching Assistants just received her Lower Elementary certification from the Seacoast Center for Montessori Education. Dr. Bohan asked if she could be recognized formally, perhaps with a cake. Dr. Hunt was in favor of that.

Dr. Hunt reported the following recent spending:

- They have ordered additional books for classroom libraries. Many of these are informational text, which the scholars need more practice with.
- Dr. Hunt told the Board she is currently going through training for the SOLs (Standards of Learning.)
- The AMS conference is being held in Chicago in March 2016. Four Lower Elementary staff and the Literary Coach will be attending with her. Dr. Bohan inquired about the accessibility of the AMS website with the school's membership. She would like the parents to be able to have access to all its resources. Dr. Hunt will have Kristy or Tia look into this.
- At the same time, the four Upper Elementary teachers will be accompanying the sixth graders to New York for the MMUN conference.

They have added several new people to the substitute list, including some CCU students. Coach Chris will be attending a Physical Education conference in Myrtle Beach.

- CMCS has purchased a membership with the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics, and will have access to online journals and resources.
- Postcards promoting open enrollment have been sent to targeted blocks of homes in Georgetown. Amy Miller has requested permission from Molly Spearman's office to use one of her quotes from the Summit on Montessori Leadership at Lander University for a CMCS newspaper ad.
- Gary Davidson did a training for all staff (except lead teachers) which explored Montessori culture, the concept of "talking so kids will listen and listening so kids will talk."

Dr. Hunt explained to the Board that she is continuing to research technology options for students, and is currently leaning towards Chromebooks, as they have been approved for testing.

Regarding Middle School, Dr. Hunt told the Board she plans to post positions December 1st on the following websites: USC, Clemson, Lander, AMS, PCSA of SC, CMCS, and GCSD. She will also be attending two college job fairs. She has arranged with East

Cooper Montessori Charter School, for CMCS sixth graders and their families to visit their campus on January 13th.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Treasurer, Mr. Jason Hendrix reported that the budget remains consistent with what was projected for the fiscal year. Communication regarding financial issues continues between the director, the CMCS Board Treasurer and our financial team. There are many checks and balances that continue to be utilized within the system.

The revenue that was expended from the CMCS account to pay SGA and engineering fees during the facility design phase was reimbursed after the construction loan with Conway National Bank was closed.

FACILITY UPDATE

Chair Horvath reported that the new facility site has been cleared. Site work for roads, storm water drainage and the building slab continue.

The contractor did approve student field trips to the site on Fridays (when they are typically not working) – three students at a time - to document progress. This process will be aligned with various standards.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Dr. Bohan informed the Board that fifth and sixth graders will be taking a tour of Boeing on May 13th.

Dr. Hunt shared that Megan Nowacoski from HGTC is looking for a middle school to start a Technology Student Association. “Tech After School” will be offered during recess once a week at CMCS under the guidance of Chris Bergeron. There is a competition in March for coding and webmastering. The goal is to properly prepare students for the 21st Century.

Dr. Bohan updated the Board regarding the SCMA and the Montessori Public Policy Institute (MPPI.)

CMCS is working with CCU to schedule a student led campus tour for fifth and sixth graders. Dr. Hunt is on the Board of Visitors.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to be transacted, Ms. Tomovski made the motion to adjourn. Dr. Bohan seconded the motion. The Board VOTED unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Tomovski
CMCS Board Secretary