

Coastal Montessori Charter School

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 9th, 2013 ~ 6:00 PM

BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

The following members of the Board were present:

Kristin Bohan, Bo Bryan, Mary Bryan, Lynne Ford, Jason Hendrix, Rob Horvath, Gene Mannella, Pamela Martin, Scott Steffen, and Rachel Tomovski

The following members of the Board were absent:

Kristin Alford, Pamela Grant, Laura Lee, Stella Mercado, and Martha Propps

Other Attendees:

Nathalie Hunt, CMCS Principal

Luiz Yamashita, MSPI Long Range Planning

Charles Swenson, Coastal Observer

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Rob Horvath, called the meeting to order at 6:07 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 MAY'S MINUTES

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Nathalie Hunt used a power point presentation to update the Board. She included the following notes:

There is a positive climate at CMCS with a high morale, and good relationships are being developed. Dr. Hunt showed the Board an example of the weekly internal newsletter she sends out to all her staff, which includes issues to focus on, upcoming events,

inspirational quotes, etc. She conducts monthly staff meetings and allows for monthly teacher collaboration time.

Dr. Hunt has completed the ADEPT training and will serve in this capacity for CMCS staff.

Another staff person has been scheduled to help Kristy with the bus students, as there are 19 students riding the bus this year, up from only 7 students last year.

In regards to recruitment, Dr. Hunt reported 28 new families enrolled this year. She has ordered a retractable vinyl banner and brochure stands for marketing purposes. She met with Board member, Lynne Ford, who shared several key Georgetown contacts with her. Dr. Hunt intends to ensure that CMCS is represented at Georgetown community events, such as the Bridge to Bridge run. Board member, Pam Martin, will be participating in that run and agreed to wear CMCS gear. A useful tool for CMCS will be “pin mapping” where CMCS families in Georgetown live and then striving to get the word out to others in the neighborhood. One goal is to invite them to Parent Education Nights.

Dr. Hunt is looking into the sustainability of using GCSB transportation and/or grants for CMCS to be able to purchase a bus.

Advertising efforts will include Radio/Television commercials and Facebook. The message will be: Public Charter Schools are FREE and available to YOU and transportation is offered.

Open Enrollment: October 1 – December 15, 2013. If required, a lottery will be scheduled for January 2014.

Full Re-enrollment will be scheduled for April 2014 in order to begin enrolling wait-listed families sooner next year.

Dr. Hunt addressed the issue of Middle School expansion. Plans are being made to communicate to current 6th grade parents what the process is to add 7th grade. Dr. Hunt continues to research IB and Montessori Middle School program options and will keep the families informed.

In the matter of Charter Goals, Dr. Hunt spoke to the goal of reading proficiency, reporting that the Lower Elementary teachers are reading Classrooms that Work: They Can All Read and Write. Teachers are keeping running records as students read. Guided reading and reading aloud is happening on a daily basis. Working towards the goal of narrowing the achievement gap, Dr. Hunt requires 3 month plans from teachers, differentiated by grade level, including follow up work and cultural work for each month. Teachers are required to use rubrics. Teachers and assistants will report via video from their laptops to answer the question: how do the decisions you make daily achieve our charter goals? Dr. Hunt also does this exercise and sends her video to the rest of the staff. In addition to the MAP testing, Dr. Hunt will be implementing some alternative assessments, more reflective of Montessori.

Going out into the community is an important element of Montessori education and Dr. Hunt reported that some of the classes are able to take student trips to the grocery store to purchase food for a community snack. This experience includes label reading and food prep. Each classroom is partnering with a non-profit organization, allowing students to practice care and represent CMCS in the greater community.

Dr. Hunt reported that she met with Dr. Barb Ritter from CCU regarding her “Do What Matters” project. She invited her to come to CMCS to facilitate round table discussions with the students, as well as talk to parents regarding the program, “Each One Teach One.”

The Upper Elementary students will begin the MMUN curriculum and CCU Political Science students will be leading them in this endeavor again this year.

Environmental Science majors from CCU will be presenting a unit to CMCS students.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair, Rob Horvath, invited all Board members to attend the Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina’s Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach, November 3 – 5, 2013. Dr. Hunt will register any members who are available to attend.

Dr. Kristin Bohan reported on the status of the USDA loan application process, saying that they had recently met with area representative, Nickie Tomes, and she was very positive about CMCS’ application. When asked how it could be strengthened, she suggested an increase in private partnerships. In order to show evidence of community support, CMCS is looking into Green Energy grants from a Georgetown company, Santee Cooper options, as well as beginning a Capital Campaign which will be launched in the next month.

Regarding the property, CMCS will seek to extend the contract with the Foundation by another 180 days while they continue to wait for the loan approval.

Dr. Bohan shared with the Board that she had been invited to attend a meeting with Governor Haley to discuss educational reform. CMCS was one of only 8 or 9 schools - out of 60, invited to join Mary Carmichael at this meeting. Dr. Bohan reported that Governor Haley seemed genuinely interested in hearing about the accomplishments and challenges of Charter Schools, and she seemed supportive of education choice.

Mr. Horvath reported that board member, Kristin Alford, has submitted a draft of the Board Calendar for this school year.

Mr. Horvath reported that Mary Bryan, Pamela Martin and Scott Steffen have joined the Board as newly elected members.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board VOTED to approve the following Executive Officers:

Rob Horvath as Chair

Scott Steffen as Vice Chair

Jason Hendrix as Treasurer

Rachel Tomovski as Secretary

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 7:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Tomovski
CMCS Board Secretary