

Coastal Montessori Charter School

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, November 14th, 2016 ~ 6:00 PM

BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

The following members of the Board were present:

Rob Horvath, Cathy Scott, Scott Steffen, and Rachel Tomovski

The following Board members were absent:

Jason Hendrix, Gene Mannella and Stella Mercado

OTHER ATTENDEES

Nathalie Hunt, CMCS Principal

Barb Royal, Kids Can Give Too

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Mr. Rob Horvath, called the meeting to order at 6:15 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

Mr. Scott Steffen made a motion to accept both November's agenda, and the October Minutes (previously circulated.) Dr. Cathy Scott seconded the motion. The Board VOTED unanimously to approve both agenda and minutes, and the motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Ms. Barb Royal presented the board with a proposal for a fundraising partnership. Her organization, Kids Can Give Too, is a charity-infused birthday invitation platform intended to inspire children and raise money for a cause they choose. Ms. Royal suggested that promoting each other, KCGT and CMCS can encourage students to raise money for their school and local sister charities. She explained that the program does align with Montessori values of service and community. Each birthday party can be set up to serve two charities. To date, CMCS has had eleven students host parties and these

have raised \$1727.50 for the school (without any marketing.) Ms. Royal suggested that CMCS agree to act as the pilot school for such a partnership, actively participating in designing the dashboard and tweaking the program. KCGT is a for-profit organization: Ms. Royal makes 10%, birthday child receives 40%, and the charity or charities receive the other 50%. All Board Members present expressed interest in pursuing this partnership. Next steps: Ms. Royal will create a questionnaire for the Board and the Office Staff regarding the dashboard design.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Nathalie Hunt reported current enrollment to be at 218 students, with 70 on the waitlist.

New hires this month include: a full time Building Manager, making 25K and eligible for benefits and a 403B; and a part time Food Service Operator, making \$13.50/hour from 10AM until 2PM daily. The latter was referred by the District and is Safe Serve Certified.

The Department of Justice will be making their rounds in GCSD, and they are scheduled to visit CMCS on November 17th. Dr. Hunt was happy to report that there has been an increase in the number of African American applicants. On last year's waitlist, the percentage of AA students was 4.34%. This year, it is up to 18.75%. The current percentage of AA students at CMCS is 22.7%.

Dr. Hunt shared her concerns with the board regarding the transportation plan for the new building. She continues to receive an unsatisfactory response from the District. Dr. Pringle proposed that CMCS students should wait at WMS, unsupervised, both before and after school. This being a totally unacceptable option and transportation being a "green light issue," Dr. Hunt did reach out to Dr. Cafaro and suggest that this be resolved prior to the visit from the D.O.J.

Dr. Hunt reported receiving the following applications to date, for consideration for next year:

- 26 – 1st grade
- 2 – 2nd grade
- 7 – 3rd grade
- 5 – 4th grade
- 3 – 6th grade
- 1 – 7th grade

An Open House is scheduled for December 1st at the new building. Dr. Hunt continues to plan visits to churches, head start programs and preschools, which have a high level of diversity.

While the Bond Referendum did pass, Dr. Hunt informed the board that CMCS was listed as a Support Facility, which is completely incorrect. CMCS is slotted to receive between \$800K and 1.2MM. Dr. Dozier hopes to have access to funds in the spring. He stated the

District wants to buy the property adjacent to CMCS and rent it to the school for \$1/year. Mr. Steffen interjected that CMCS would require contracts to ensure they could operate without needing to seek approval for every minor action.

Dr. Hunt noted to the Board that the District did waive the last month of rent for CMCS in order to help with moving expenses.

FACILITY REPORT

Chair Horvath reported that the follow up meeting with the Fire Marshall has been set for Friday morning. The OSF inspection raised issues that required some additional work: a gravel road for emergency vehicles and fire hoses; the placement of the sprinklers; the need for a sidewalk connecting exit paths to a common area. Dr. Hunt told the board that she is petitioning SGA to take responsibility for their error and cover a percentage of the extra costs that are now being incurred. CMCS was told they could receive a conditional Certificate of Occupancy if they show a plan to correct deficiencies, and a time frame in which they plan to do so. The movers are currently scheduled for Friday, but can be rescheduled if needed.

The insurance policy for the building and \$500K worth of contents is \$17,000. The deductible is 2% of the value of the building, not of the damage, for a named wind storm. There is an option to change the deductible to \$5,000 for a named storm and it would cost \$7,000/year. Chair Horvath asked the Board to consider which might be a more desirable option.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Prior to the meeting, Treasurer, Jason Hendrix and Mr. Gene 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 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Tomovski
CMCS Board Secretary