

Coastal Montessori Charter School

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, October 15th, 2018 ~ 6:00 PM

BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

The following members of the Board were present:

Ryan Fabbri, Patricia Gadek, Dr. Cathy Scott, Lesley Steedly, and Rachel Tomovski

The following members were absent:

Scott Steffen

Also in attendance:

Dr. Nathalie Hunt, CMCS Director

Charles Swensen, Coastal Observer

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Dr. Scott called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

COMPLIANCE WITH FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) and THE READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Chair, Dr. Scott read aloud the FOIA statement. Secretary, Rachel Tomovski read aloud the CMCS mission statement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments at this time.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST MINUTES AND OCTOBER AGENDA

Ms. Lesley Steedly made a motion to accept both June's Minutes, and the August Agenda (previously circulated.) Ms. Patricia Gadek seconded the motion. The Board **VOTED** unanimously to approve both the Minutes and the Agenda, and the motion passed.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Enrollment Update: During this Open Enrollment season which ends December 14th, Dr. Hunt reported the following marketing actions: brochures are available in various locations including pediatrician offices; a billboard was secured for a great price in Maryville and includes language about the lottery; a temporary permit was obtained for signage on Highway 17; and core lessons are being recorded and posted on the website. Additionally CMCS will host two open houses and will participate in the Georgetown Christmas parade. Plans are being made to connect with church communities as well. Dr. Hunt reported that CMCS currently has 279 students enrolled, leaving only one opening, which is in 8th grade. There are fifteen students on the waitlist for this year. They are working to increase this number. Current student population percentages include 12.9% diversity and 11.5% special education.

Human Resources Update: Dr. Hunt reported that two teaching assistants resigned in September and replacements have been hired. The school nurse has given notice that she will be relocating in December, creating a vacancy for this position. Dr. Hunt assured the

Board there are already some solid candidates. The Spanish teacher, who became full time as of this school year, has resigned, and the position is now being re-evaluated. The District does not require a foreign language be offered in Elementary. One class per week is likely not often enough to be beneficial, and the logistics necessary to offer more than that are not possible. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Director, and agreed to by the Board, that Spanish be offered to grades four through eight, making it a part time position. Dr. Hunt will email Board members a proposal for the job posting and appropriate compensation. The Board will vote via email to approve it.

Curriculum Update: Dr. Hunt shared testing result tables for the state, other District schools, and CMCS. Across the county, we are seeing less growth and proficiency in Math. This continues to be an area of focus. WIS is outperforming CMCS in math scores. Vocabulary used in the test is not consistent with Montessori vocabulary, so care is being taken to introduce the language into Montessori lessons. Also, where Montessori is very direct, these tests incorporate intentional distractors into the questions, so students will need to be taught strategies for breaking down the directions and word problems, and for eliminating distractions. Perhaps the time that used to be spent on Spanish in Lower Elementary can be used for more math instruction. The state mandated tracking system for each student's academic growth (SLOs,) in Lower and Upper Elementary, provides goals addressing specific mathematic standards with targeted instructional strategies. Dr. Hunt will meet with Middle School next week to review their SLO plan.

Fundraising Update: Dr. Hunt reported that nearly \$19,000 has been raised through The Big Give capital campaign, and there will be another opportunity to participate in lunch with your scholar on November 20th, the proceeds from which benefit this fund. October 27th is the "Eat, Drink, and Be Scary" event. The Montessori Marketplace will be held on November 17th, and finally the annual Barnes and Noble event is scheduled for December 8th.

BUDGET REPORT

Dr. Hunt reviewed the Budget (previously circulated) with the Board. There do not seem to be any big changes. Money is coming in as it should be. She did point out this year's more reasonable fundraising goal for MMUN (down to \$15K), based on last year, when more was raised than needed and some of those funds are in reserves for this year. Dr. Hunt told the Board that she is keeping a close eye on the charges for services provided by the District, as well as office supplies spending. Many areas have had to be trimmed down, and she will be diligent in monitoring these.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Hunt shared the Board Election ballot with the members. She was told that our charter specifies a one year term and that though we believed it had been amended to be two years, the amendment had not actually gone through the proper channels. Therefore any current member wishing to continue serving on the board will need to be listed on this ballot. Apparently this is the case with a few different amendments that were thought to have been made. Dr. Hunt is following up on these immediately. Furthermore, the ballot lists eight names but the charter states that the board shall consist of seven members. The Board agreed to increase the number to eight for the upcoming term.

Dr. Hunt informed the Board that she has shared Chair, Dr. Scott's letter to the community with the South Strand News and the Coastal Observer, in an attempt to clear up any misunderstandings the public may have regarding the funding situation for CMCS, whose business model was created based on twenty-one percent more than what is currently being received.

Treasurer, Mr. Fabbri, updated the Board regarding the Audit. He said that it will appear that everything is fine, however this is misleading, and it is only by looking very closely at it that anyone would be able to ascertain the serious concerns. However, next year, it will look very different. The auditors will be at the school next month.

The Board has yet to receive any response from the District regarding a meeting, though CMCS has reached out repeatedly. Similarly, Dr. Hunt did not receive a reply when she asked for three possible dates for a meeting that she might share with the members this evening. At this time, it is the decision of the Board to involve legal counsel in setting up the meeting. Dr. Hunt will pursue this line of action immediately.

VOTING ITEM

Mr. Fabbri moved that the Board amend the number of members from seven to eight. Ms. Steedly seconded the motion. The Board **VOTED** unanimously and the motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to be transacted, Ms. Steedly moved the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Gadek seconded the motion. The Board **VOTED** unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Tomovski
CMCS Board Secretary