

FINAL  
COASTAL MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021

**Directors Present:**

Tyler Easterling, Sarah Smith, Meagan Leventis, Tiffany Jenkins, Gwyn Single, Ashley Nelson, Nikki Graziano

**Also Present:**

Rosemary Gray, Interim Director, Chris Sokoloski, Coastal Observer, Antoinette Ursitis, Dr. Trisha Gaskill, Kelly Hayes

**A. Call to Order**

**a. Quorum:**

Yes

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Coastal Montessori Charter School (CMCS) was held on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 6:00 pm in-person and via Zoom due to COVID-19. The meeting was called to order by Tyler Easterling at 6:06 pm.

**b. Approval of Agenda:**

Tyler Easterling presented to the Board the agenda for the meeting. Sarah Smith made motion to approve. Gwyn Single seconded. Agenda stands as distributed.

**c. Approval of Minutes of April 19, 2021 Meeting**

Tyler Easterling presented to the Board the minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting for Board approval. Gwyn Single made motion to approve. Meagan Leventis seconded. Minutes stand approved as distributed.

**d. 21-22 Swearing in of Board and Elections**

Dr. Mike Cafaro led the 21-22 Board members in the Oath of Office.

**e. Board Office Elections**

Sarah Smith made a motion to approve the 21-22 board of officer's slate as presented. Tiffany Jenkins seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair – Tyler Easterling

Vice Chair – Kristi Stephens

Treasurer – Gwyn Single

Secretary – Meagan Leventis

**B. Information and Reports**

**a. Director's Report** presented by Rosemary Gray, Interim Director.

- Current Enrollment – 230
  - First Grade: at capacity of 32 for next school year - 6 on wait list

- Total number of new enrollees for next school year was 26 last Thursday. 5 new students have applied since last Friday, so that makes the enrollment number 235.
  - Over half of the expected returning students have registered for next year.
- Virtual Program 2021-2022
 

This program is not viable due to the lack of interest in it. Administration sent out an interest survey to gauge the number of parents who wished for their students to participate in a virtual program. There were 11 responses, which is not enough to support a program. Therefore, CMCS's instruction will be all in-person next school year.
- Marketing Campaign
 

Ms. Amy Miller came in and met with administration last week to get a sense of what they are looking for to begin a long-term marketing campaign. They discussed lots of ideas, and now she is working on a plan that will get underway in the next couple of weeks. Brochures have already been completed. Billboards, mailings, and digital notification with links to a CMCS video, etc. are some of the ideas discussed. Once she gets a clear plan with a timeline of when and how things will unfold, Ms. Gray will bring back the details to keep the Board informed.
- State Testing
 

State testing is set to begin this Friday. Some students have opted out of testing, and that is allowed by the State Department for this school year; however, most students will participate. Scores will not be reflected in next year's school report cards.
- 21-22 School Times
 

Next year's beginning and end school times are going to be about the same as they are right now, and this is across the district. A survey was given to students, teachers, administrators, and parents by the Georgetown County School District to get an idea of stakeholders' preferences. One result was that elementary schools will begin around 7:30 A.M. and will end around 2:00 P.M. Those times could fluctuate five or ten minutes depending on the bus schedule. Middle and high schools will begin school around 8:30. Our middle schoolers will follow the elementary schedule since the busses pick up our middle schoolers at the same time, they do the elementary students. This is a permanent change.
- Free Lunch
 

All GCS D students will be able to receive free breakfast and lunch next school year.
- New Positions and Training
 

We will receive a new full-time position provided by GCS D through a request to the State Department. The person hired for this position will be an Interventionist who will assist students in (math and reading). It is a two-year position, and the position can involve a pull-out program, or it can involve an inclusion-type plan where the teacher works with students inside their regular classroom on math and/or reading. CMCS will probably make it a little of both.
- New positions: 1 Special Education position, 2 Lead Teacher positions, 1 Full-time Spanish position, 1 Reading Coach, 1 Interventionist position, and 2 Teaching Assistant positions
  - We have hired the special education teacher, 1 of the two lead teachers, and 1 Spanish teacher. All are SC State Certified teachers.

- We have advertised the Reading Coach position and the Interventionist position and are waiting on the posting period to end this week before we begin interviews for those positions. We have several candidates. We also have several applications for our teaching assistant positions, and those interviews will begin shortly as well.
- Often, when new people are hired, they do not have much experience teaching in a Montessori school. To help ease them into what the Montessori method is all about, Dr. T. will provide two full days of initial Montessori training to our new hires on June 21 and 22. They will have this training in June rather than in August just before school begins to allow them to gain the basic knowledge of the program, and over the summer they can research and begin to make plans for the school year. The several professional development days at the beginning of next school year will also provide time for additional training for the new hires.

### C. Public Comments

The Board Chair informed the Board that no one signed up for public comments.

### D. Action Items

a. **Finance Committee Report** presented by Sarah Smith, chair of the Finance Committee.

#### Coastal Montessori Charter Training Institute Proposal

- Dr. Trisha Gaskill presented a plan to keep our Montessori training in house. She herself is a certified MACTE instructor, and she has been given the go ahead by the MACTE folks to begin the process of getting our school MACTE accredited as a learning center. This will increase the likelihood of adult learners being willing to take and complete the course work because they will not have to travel to Charleston or Greenwood, they can complete their coursework in a familiar setting with their peers, and it will also save our school lots of money in the long run.
- We will have at least ten people who will be able to participate in the program initially. There is a lengthy process that we will need to go through to become MACTE accredited, but while that process is ongoing, we will be able to conduct the necessary course work. The coursework takes 2 years to complete, so our adult learners will graduate in Summer of 2023.
- Based on the presented timeline, we would like to be complete with the MACTE accreditation process by Summer 2022.

i. Sarah Smith presented a motion from the Finance Committee to proceed with the costs associated with setting up the Coastal Montessori Training Institute.

**Second:** Nikki Graziano

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Resolved:** Motion carried

ii. Sarah Smith presented a motion from the Finance Committee to approve the security cameras for \$35,195.27 using bond money.

**Second:** Ashley Nelson

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Resolved:** Motion carried

iii. Sarah Smith presented a motion from the Finance Committee to approve the smart boards for \$11,889.84 using bond money.

**Second:** Meagan Leventis

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Resolved:** Motion carried

**iv.** Sarah Smith presented a motion from the Finance Committee to authorize Tyler Easterling to give Prestige notice that we will not be automatically renewing their contract for the 21-22 school year and negotiate with other vendors.

**Second:** Meagan Leventis

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Resolved:** Motion carried

**F.** Next scheduled meeting is June 21 at 6:00 pm.

Sarah Smith made motion to adjourn. Meagan Leventis seconded. Vote was unanimous.

There being no further discussion and no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Tyler Easterling, Acting Secretary



