



MicroSociety Academy Charter School
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Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
6:30PM
VIA Zoom Call

I. Board Meeting Called to order

- A. 6:36pm. Present via Zoom, Amanda Schneck, Amy Bottomley, Barbara Halevi, Thomas Malone, John Dagianis, Tom Dougherty, David Glasier, Cathy McNamara. Absent Andrew McWeeney.
- B. Tom read notice regarding authorization to meet electronically due to Governor Sununu's State of Emergency Pandemic executive order 12/2020-04. All votes shall be done by roll call vote.

II. Public and School Community Input.

- A. Danielle Troy, Melody Barry, Abby Logan, Alethea Carter, Cheryl Bean, Laura Mitchell
 - a. Danielle wants us to look at the long term goal for our intent to return (i.e. quarantine after vacation)
 - b. Abby mentioned that she is a fully remote family, but is here to listen and that she is happy with their experience with MACS and the remote experience has been positive for them

III. School Director's Report

- A. Micro Moment - focusing on their HEART goals. For Example, one 3rd grade class is making posters on protecting their environment and animals. The goal is to get the posters in the Nashua public library. The 4th grade is writing a book about spreading kindness and they want to work on getting it published. The 5th grade will take Hunt Community on a virtual tour of different countries.
- B. Enrollment is currently at 236.
- C. First virtual open house was well attended. The next one will be held on Feb 17th at 6pm. Public lottery is on March 3.
- D. Scholastic book fair is happening now.
- E. First assembly went well with BMX biker. In honor of Black History Month, the Nashua Community Music School will be presenting a virtual assembly called "If I could change the world".
- F. Amy is finishing up observations and evaluations of the staff.
- G. MACS was recognized by the NH Partners in Education:
 - a. We were awarded the Blue Ribbon Achievement Award
 - b. Awarded the Rock Star Award in two areas; Program Coordinators and Lynn McGowan in recognition of their efforts and partnership with the school during the Covid pandemic.
- H. PTO is doing a virtual read a thon and a virtual pet contest.

Tom M motions to accept board meeting minutes and Director's report. John 2nds. By roll call:

Thomas - YES	David - YES	Amanda - YES	Cathy - YES
Barbara - YES	John D - YES	Tom D - YES	Andrew - YES

All Yes's. Minutes and Director's report accepted.

IV. Covid Update

- A. Tom went over the metrics and updates from the data supplied by Cathy from St Joes
- B. NH is currently still positive, but trending in a more positive direction
- C. Amy mentioned that we have one staff member still out and another one about to go out on a medical leave
- D. Amy was able to hire one sub, pending a background check
- E. Staff is not traveling for Feb break
- F. Last survey indicated that only 4% of families plan to travel for Feb break.
- G. Tom D reminded everyone that Amy needs two weeks to plan and prepare staff to transition back into the classroom. Our best case scenario would be March 1.

- H. Tom M mentioned that we want to plan to open hybrid when we do return. We need to consider keeping the kids and staff safe, while maintaining socially distancing requirements.
- I. Original request for remote was 30% in Sept. 40% wanted remote around the holidays. Now 35% want to stay remote.
- J. Parent survey indicated that families are mixed with the return. Some want full in person (4 days per week), some want hybrid and some want to stay remote. Grades 3-8 did well with their assessments, K-2 did not score as well.
- K. Staff would like the board to entertain bringing k-2 back 4 days per week.
- L. Amy mentioned that public schools have a per pupil square footage that is waived for charter schools.
- M. Recent staff poll indicated 85% of staff is comfortable coming back and 15% are not.
- N. Andrew toured the building and indicated that it looks like we could do 12 students comfortably in the classroom.
- O. Tom M asked if we could run the hybrid for grades 3-8 and four (4) days for K-2 on March 1.
- P. Suggestion was made to operate hybrid for all beginning March 1 and then transition K-2 to four (4) days beginning the new trimester.
- Q. Barbara said that we should consider why we went remote in the first place. Community transmission is still substantial. Our school operations was strained at the time. DHHS guidance recommends 3-6 feet between kids and face masks in the classroom.
- R. In the fall, kids received ample mask breaks. If they could not stay 3-6 feet apart, they had to keep them on.
- S. John mentioned that if someone is not alone in the room, the room is not clean.
- T. There was mention that teachers should teach with masks on and only take them off when they are eating in their classroom.
- U. Cathy mentioned that they have had extremely low transmission rates and we should make our decisions for what is best for the students.
- V. Andrew mentioned that we should look at air purifiers in the rooms.
- W. Amanda mentioned that we might want to look at the see through masks for facial recognition.
- X. Tom D would like the facilities committee to do some research on air purifiers
- Y. HR/Governance to review the policy around masks policies guidance
- Z. Amy said that she would not be ready to open March 1 if we do not have a mask policy updated from the HR/Governance committee. The parents are looking for masks breaks for the kids. Barbara proposes that we change the policy to read *Masks will be required for students and staff in the building at all times except*

when eating or alone in an office/classroom. Periodic short mask breaks will occur preferably at the same time as a meal or snack break or outside recess.

Barbara makes a motion to adopt the new mask policy with the proposed changes to the language. Tom M seconds.

Thomas - YES	David - NO	Amanda - YES	Cathy - YES
Barbara - YES	John D - YES	Tom D - YES	Andrew - YES

7 - Yes, 1- No

The motion is made to move all grades to hybrid beginning March 1, and move K-2 students in person four (4) days, beginning March 15th, providing capacity does not exceed our limitation. Andrew 1sts, Amanda 2nds.

Thomas - YES	David - NO	Amanda - YES	Cathy - YES
Barbara - YES	John D - YES	Tom D - YES	Andrew - YES

7 - Yes, 1- No

V. Treasure and Financial Report

- A. YTD, things continue to track as planned. Working with Teri to firm up the budget. We are projecting to have an operational surplus. It will be smaller due to Covid expenses.
- B. We have \$71,000 coming in from the state. Currently looking at the restricted uses for the grant to see what is covered.
- C. David plans to send out the projected budget and is requesting committee chairs to submit any requests for projects to him now for consideration.
- D. State per pupil aid is going to be flat. Projecting a few increases for next year due to cost of living increases and expenses. Average projection for cost of living is 2.5% year over year.
- E. Tom M requested that the finance committee review the potential increase in money for substitute teachers, additional personnel, fulfillment of nurse, and additional PPE expenses.

Motion is made to accept the Treasurer and Financial Reports. Tom M 1sts, Cathy 2nds.

Thomas - YES	David - YES	Amanda - YES	Cathy - YES
Barbara - YES	John D - YES	Tom D - YES	Andrew - YES

All Yes's.

VI. Facilities Committee

1. Sewage review was supposed to happen today, but they did not show up. It is now scheduled for February 17th.
2. The pipe is being reviewed to see if there are any clogs. They will jet the pipe to open it back up.
3. Air purifiers - Andrew is going to obtain a quote for air purifiers

VII. Development Committee

- A. Still working on building a relationship with St Joe's to address our immediate needs, which are rapid Covid testing for teachers/staff.
- B. We want to create a GoFundMe campaign to help support some of the added expenses. Asking the board for 100% participation and will also extend the ask to the parents of MACS
- C. Chamber ad ran for the open houses
- D. Susannah and Jewel have created a video for use on social media campaigns

VIII. Governance and HR

- A. Mask policy - we re-evaluated the mask policy during our Covid discussion
- B. Amy is proposing that we transition our life and short term disability to Life Trust. She would like to see these other two pieces of the benefits be added to the program. It also offers better security.

Motion is made to move life and short term disability to Life Trust. Tom M 1sts, Dr John 2nds.

Thomas - YES	David - YES	Amanda - YES	Cathy - YES
Barbara - YES	John D - YES	Tom D - YES	Andrew - Abstain

- C. Information Systems - Rules of Behavior policy - Mainstay made some recommendations to amend the Information Systems Rules of Behavior policy to address the use of computers and equipment in a remote setting.

Motion is made to accept the amendment to the Information System Rules of Behavior Policy. Tom M 1sts, Dr John 2nds.

Thomas - YES David - YES Amanda - YES Cathy - YES
Barbara - YES John D - YES Tom D - YES Andrew - YES

Staff will receive training on the 15th on these new policies.

D. We have two new board prospects. Tom M and the committee will be interviewing them for consideration.

IX. New Business

No New Business

David motions to adjourn the meeting. Barbara 2nds.

By rollcall:

Thomas - YES David - YES Amanda - YES Cathy - YES
Barbara - YES John D - YES Tom D - YES Andrew - YES

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM