

## CALL TO ORDER

Jonathan Ward called the meeting to order at 1:05pm; Board Policy and Sect 286.0114 Florida Statute was read to all present as written on the bottom of the agenda ref. Public Comments.

### Roll Call was completed – quorum met

Present:

- President Deb MacKay
- Vice President Ralph Smith
- Secretary Jonathan Ward
- Treasurer: Melinda Downing
- Members at Large: Patty Dodd, Don Medeiros

Staff : School Principal: David Friedlander

Public: Police Officer Deputy Liss, Lynda Medeiros, Candace Batson, Alison Scott, Mary Ann Kelly, Mark Narowensky, Bev Dodder, Dennis Devore, Janice Strange, Karin Harms, Joyce Terry. Plus two illegible signatures on the sign in sheet.

Apologies: None

## REVIEW OF PUBLIC NOTICES

The meeting notice was posted on School Website.

### Approve Minutes (2 min)

April 17<sup>th</sup> 2023

Motion to accept by Melinda Downing and seconded by Deb MacKay. Passed with a unanimous vote.

### Discussion and Approval of updated Policies:

- Board Meeting Policy
  - If adopted, the agenda template needs minor modification to match the new policy.
- Board Member Policy
- Motion to accept both Policies made by Ralph Smith and seconded by Melinda Downing. Passed with a unanimous vote.

### Finance/budget Discussion and Approval : Led by Melinda Downing.

- Recommendation to change the medical benefits to give greater flexibility to staff and provide options for optical and dental coverage.
- eRate discount is not correct and we will work to increase the discounted rate.
- ERC tax reimbursement could be as high as \$70K
- \$50K for COVID cleaning reprogrammed for ESSER reimbursement from FY22
- Capital Outlay #s are still TBD by the County/State (not included here)
- We expect to get tax millage \$s this year. Again the amount is TBD.
- Recommend that the admin payment threshold should be reduced to \$500. The treasurer would approve \$501-\$5K, and >\$5K would need the board president to approve as well as the treasurer.
- The budget for 2023-24 is balanced with a small surplus even without the additional reimbursements and income expected.
- Staffing plan within Budget & meets teaching model/enrichment needs

Motion to accept the budget and staffing plan made by Jonathan Ward and seconded by Don Medeiros. Motion passed unanimously.

The board wholeheartedly thanked Melinda for all her hard work on the budget

### **School Grade**

Following recent State testing we have been told that the school now has a grade C and possibly a B once the county has leveled the grade ranges. Final cut lines haven't been established by the State – and may not be released officially until October 2023 per MCPS feedback.

We heard that it is highly unusual for a school to jump up the grades so quickly and the board thanked all the staff for achieving this impressive turnabout with our students.

### **Public Comments**

Dennis Devore asked several questions:

- What happened after the previous meeting was aborted after the uproar from the public and the Sherriff was called.
- Copy of the April minutes for when the Sherrif was called on them.
- Copy of the attorney's letter reflecting a decision on Patty Dodd staying on the board.
- How many teachers are planned for next year. (Answered during the meeting).
- Wanted all communications to be sent to PO Box 663.
- Stated the the School is suing the Town Manager. (This is discussed after the meeting and he was informed this was completely wrong; he was strongly encouraged not to repeat this lie.)

Joyce Terry asked about the number of teachers planned for the coming year. Melinda answered, it is 4 plus 2 Paras.

Candace Batson wanted a copy of the rescinded 'resignation' email from Patty Dodd.

Beverly Dodder wanted to know how the VPK plans were progressing. David Friedlander explained that the program was on track for opening soon with a couple more inspections to complete.

Alison Scott acknowledged the letter from the school's attorney and asked if any previous board members had been sent such letters.

### **Board Final comments (~ 5 min)**

**Ralph Smith** wanted to thank Melinda Downing for all her excellent hard work on the budget.

**Melinda Downing** emphasized how great was the grade improvement and asked David Friedlander to present rewards and/or recognition options for the staff involved.

**Don Medeiros** also thanked Melinda Downing for all her hard work.

#### **Deb MacKay:**

- Explained that our Governance attorney advised Patty Dodd was okay to rescind the email. Both parties acted in good faith and in accordance with the by-laws by moving forward with her retraction and desire to stay on the board. There was no need to take other actions or revote (wouldn't change business outcomes, process not required/addressed in bylaws).
- We need to look into mega-fundraising; probably with substantial businesses.
- We need to identify the volunteer hours by the board by the 20<sup>th</sup> August.
- Ops calendar reviewed and we have met all the conditions and guidelines for last year.
- Board professional development for Melinda, Don and Jonathan needs to be refreshed.
- All required information has been given to the auditor. The audit is to be complete by August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Proposed meetings for the coming year:
  - Sept 18, 2023
  - Nov 13, 2023
  - Jan 15, 2024
  - Mar 18, 2024
  - May 20, 2024
  - July 15, 2024

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:14pm**