

MLCS Board Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2024



Board Members present

Justin Myers, Ryan Detrick, Will Sarkisian, Jim Harvey, Kristie Laxague

Others present

Stephanie Torok, Annie Stayer, Aleja Oliva, Kim Hartsell, Michael McDaniel, Crystal Wolf, Cameron McClean, Chris Buck, Melissa Vallelunga, Monica Lewis, Seth Martinez, Alisha Sutton, Natalie Gray, Season Ingram, AnnaMarie Cover, Megan Lee, Jennie Radonich, Brittany Divine, Kristen Rouse, Donnie Wright

Justin called the meeting to order at 4:31pm and Jim opened with prayer.

Approval of Minutes

September minutes: Justin opened a motion to approve. Ryan 1st, Jim 2nd, all in favor and approved.

Public Comment

A group of parents are concerned about the direction and culture of our school and would like a survey to go out to all the parents. It would be a way for the Board and Administration to really grasp the way parents are feeling. Justin welcomes communication from the parents and Jim likes the idea of the survey. Many parents at tonight's meeting agree that a survey would be beneficial. Parents would really like follow up after a topic/concern is brought to the Board and has been discussed and decided on. They would like to see better communication. Justin said depending on the topic/issue, they will determine if the follow-up would be to an individual person or in a group meeting setting.

Karen McDaniel said that it was very impressive to see our school hold it's ground regarding the Cougar Run. Aleja asked the Board how we plan on handling a situation with students from other schools that are transgender, wanting to compete in school sports with our kids. Justin said that Donnie has been advised to forfeit. Multiple parents from other schools were so thankful that we made that stand.

Reports

Administrator Report

Stephanie Torok reporting:

We're going through Genesis in our staff morning devotions. Our school is hosting the girls basketball tournament right now, thank you Donnie and volunteers! A lot goes into putting an event like this together. Stephanie has been popping into classrooms to offer support. Students that have been struggling with behavior are gaining small victories. We want all our students and families to succeed. 2nd grade is working on memorizing Proverbs 2:1-11. Mrs. Allison had her baby, and she has decided not to return this year. Stephanie will be teaching beginning band for the rest of the year. Our jog-a-thon is coming up and the next few months are packed. We have a lot going on!



PTF Report

Julie Smith was not present but sent a typed PTF report.

Chris Buck:

Chris brought a great idea to the Board to put on a golf tournament and maybe even make it an annual event. It could raise approximately \$10,000 or more and would be a great way to get fathers involved, and to raise money for our school. Chris handed out a packet from the last golf tournament he put on. He would like to shoot for the spring. Combining it with our school's 60th anniversary celebration was discussed. The Board loved the idea and will discuss it.

Financial Report

Beth Duncan reporting:

The Summery Balance sheet has been condensed. The detailed description is available for anyone. The business office is working on simplifying things. Everything has been paid for on time. They are working on the quarterly budget. Jim said that the account structure needs to be modernized and that we're moving in that direction. Getting QuickBooks online is a goal.

Teacher Report

Jennie Radonich and Natalie Gray reporting:

Christmas musical tryouts are happening! It's going to be a great performance. The cost to soundproof the gym has tripled in price since the last quote, that is something we are discussing and trying to figure out. Our yearbook cover has been decided on, and our editor in chief is Scarlett Kirk. We'll include a special something about Walt Semsen and his years of service on the Board, along with our school's 60th anniversary. The 6th grade class is memorizing Hebrews 11 in class right now. They went on a field trip to Pinecrest, 15 parent chaperones attended! It was a great bonding experience. Their next field trip will be to the Egyptian Museum.

Preschool Report

Crystal Wolf reporting:

We have 55 children enrolled in preschool right now and we have 55 on our waitlist. We have been using Brightwheel for a month and we are loving it! 90% of our parents have signed up and are actively using it. This system has proven to be efficient. 23 of our families have enrolled in autopay, and she has been able to collect invoices that were past due. The only downfall as of now is there is a \$17 fee for them to pay with their credit card.

Facilities and Projects

Donnie Wright reporting:

The Cougar Run went well. We had a lot of independent runners, and 14 schools participated. The funds from the basketball tournament will go toward the DC trip. Boys wrestling will start soon. Walt found us a great floor buffer for the gym, thank you! The cafeteria floors will be worked on during Christmas break, that's including new flooring in the kitchen. The water heaters in the teachers lounge and the kitchen will be swapped. Preschool is getting a water bottle filling station; Matt will be installing it. Donnie and Matt are starting to winterize the campus. We have a workday in November, there is a lot to do! Getting our generator installed & hooked up, and painting the front steps with gritty acrylic paint are some of the things to check off the list. We need to continue to pray for the grant that we applied for. The Board would like an updated facilities list from Donnie. Justin asked Donnie to look into buying a brand new 10-gallon water heater instead of swapping them.



Old Business

Strategic Plan

If there is anyone that would like to get involved, contact Justin.

Board Member Search

Contact the Board if you or anyone you know is interested. Ryan's term ends in January, and Justin's ends in July. Seth Martinez asked if parents could be a part of the process to vote Board members in. Justin replied that during the 60-day probation period, that would be the time for parents to voice their support or concerns.

New Business

We want to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our school and the Board needs help with ideas and help. We are shooting for spring and our goal is to combine all past and current staff, alumni and families in this celebration fundraiser. The golf tournament is a great idea and could turn into an annual event if it goes well. We would like the funds that are raised to be put into an endowment account. Justin mentioned that as of now, there is nobody stepping into Walt and Kerry's shoes when they decided to retire. We need to have a plan and a firm foundation for the school when that time comes. If anyone is interested in helping with the 60th Anniversary and Golf Tournament please leave your name and number or email the board. Jim has been working with the business office, they would like to move our operating checking accounts into interest-bearing checking accounts. We sit on a lot of cash from the beginning of the school year and slowly work it down as the year moves on. We have 6 checking accounts. The interest-bearing accounts wouldn't pay a lot, but any sort of growth would be beneficial to the school. The interest level changes with how much money we keep in the account. We'll need to have all the accounts resigned.

The meeting ended at 6:15pm.

Next meeting is November 12, 2024 at 4:30pm in the Chapel.

-Closed session-