



Board Meeting Minutes – Draft for approval

Mission

Marine Area Community School will utilize the natural resources, history, arts, and civic stewardship of the community as a foundation for the study of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, art, and other curriculum subjects. The place-based learning environment will be student-centered, designed by teachers, and reinforced and supported by the local community.

1.0 Call to Order 9:00 am

1.1 **Roll Call:** Lisa White, Kristina Smitten, Glen Mills, Jon Dettmann, Lisa Dochniak, Jackie Henschen

2.0 **Approve Agenda** Member Dettman made a motion to approve December agenda. Chair Smitten amended to add PEG as an ongoing item on agenda. Motion amended to add Parent Engagement Group (PEG) under reports and discussion ahead of the admin report (Approved unanimously)

3.0 Approve Minutes of October Board Meeting

3.1 Member White noted 6.3.1 financial report states that CSP funds are based on 150 students and should read MDE State Aid payment rather than CSP. Item 6.2 regarding City of marine Elem bldg. sounds more pessimistic than intended. Motion by Mills to approve with the correction 6.3.1 Second Dettman

4.0 Community Comment

4.1 Everything is awesome (Marcy)

5.0 Reports and Discussion

5.1 Board Member Reports

- 5.1.1 Member Dochniak (Curriculum): Vanessa Johnson from Teacher Created Materials was able to connect with the teaching team to find curriculum materials to plug into what they already have in place, especially in the area of Science. Some teachers expressed needs in writing and are free to reach out to Vanessa and arrange meeting time.
- 5.1.2 Member White (School Operations): One on one discussions with teachers indicated a need for help with getting curriculum in the right place. Vanessa Johnson will reach meet and follow-up with individual teachers in the coming weeks.
- 5.1.3 Member Mills (Community Involvement): Arbor Day grant: Community member John Goodfellow seems hopeful that we will get a \$5000 grant for classroom programming, which would be tied to one of the school functions that are planned regardless if we get the grant. John led a committee that inventoried trees throughout Marine on St. Croix and has organized a group who are planning the Arbor Day activities.

5.2 Financial Report

5.2.1 Member Dettman (Finance) Committee met in the past week, and TAG is pleased with our current situation. The challenge right now is that we have to absorb the increase in the busing expense, which is about an additional \$30,000. The contract with the bus company says that there is a \$250 rate, but there is a provision with the contract that says that the amount goes up to \$295 if they do not piggy-back those buses onto Stillwater's. Our interpretation is that we do not necessarily need to share Stillwater bus routes, but the buses that serve the Stillwater district also serve our school, and the \$250 should stand. The \$295 rate seems high according to Kyle from TAG-- \$275 is also high in his experience. The location of the school creates a unique situation, which would account for additional

cost. We did tap into the line of credit leaving a balance of \$95,000, which has been half paid back. Our financial position is fine.

5.3 PTO report

- 5.3.1 Bre DeCorsey reports that Winter Activities and Clubs are coming. Cross country skiing and skating need volunteers. Points will count toward the five-week Winter Warm-up challenge. Shed was delivered and installed. Sat., Feb 10 @ 1:00 pm Family Trollhaugen Day. January Clubs: River Grove Rock Hounds and Move to the Beat Dance Crew. Scholarships available thru PTO/PEG. Parents created a holiday market— portion of proceeds benefit PTO. Pom-Pom grove hats for sale \$10--portion of proceeds to PTO. PTO has funded a collaboration with Climb Theater so each classroom can have a performance this year. Topic will be Bullying prevention. All of the preschools in the area have received information on River Grove. PTO will be on hand for tours on January 6 for the Open House event. PTO Minutes will be included in the school newsletter.
- 5.3.2 Chair Smitten added that in our original founding documents, we would survey students and parents/guardians about how things are going. Board would like PEG input and ideas on what a short survey would look like. We will also need to design a survey for our students to weigh in on what they are learning. PTO should invite board to a meeting when this topic could be discussed.

- 5.4 **Administrator Report** Monitoring visit from Patrick Grennel from MDE who toured the facility, looked at paperwork, and asked questions about how we have used the CSP funds to create the educational program design. The report has not been received as of yet. Lisa White and Kristina Smitten, Dr. Blue from the Guild along with Kyle from the Anton Group were in attendance. He seemed pretty pleased and was able to get an overall sense of the place, which will make for a point of reference in the event we request to use grant funds for specific items unique to our setting, such as snowshoes and skis.

Open Enrollment period started December 1, and 47 (40 Kindergarten) students have submitted applications for next year. We are currently doing advertising on Facebook and in local preschools. January 6 will be the Open House event during the day (10-noon) rather than an evening program so that families can enjoy the campus in the daylight. ADM 162.11 for this year with an actual count of 159 students right now, which is a slight drop, but TAG is still comfortable with this number. There is potential for some of the spaces to be filled after break.

Staffing: Karla Krick has been added as the Phy Ed teacher; she is familiar with many of the students, and the staff is now able to get a prep period. Scott Demars has been doing snow removal to keep the pathways clear.

Next week there will be an MDE nutrition services audit.

- 5.5 Chair Smitten (Overall Operations) Lease agreement: Wilder lease is currently one year. Manitou is no longer buying the property, so we are again leasing from Wilder but now for five years. If in our long term we want to buy the property, we have to have been a charter for six years, which will be the sum of the one and five years leases, which will be a good transition to an ownership model. There is also the interest in the town of Marine to have us lease the school building in Marine. Looking at the lease, there's a lot of complex language which will need to be looked at carefully by our lawyer so we can get a broad idea of what the lease contains.
- 5.6 A Board Workshop will be needed to talk about how we navigate our future- suggested January 6 prior to the Open House. Funding for lunches if we move to scratch kitchen and busing could also be discussed as part of the meeting. How do we continue to express a desire for partnership with District 834 as a community building effort? What are the potential opportunities for collaboration in areas of busing, Music, the arts.? Also for discussion would be potential for second section of Kindergarten for the coming year.

6.0 Old Business

- 6.1 Wellness Policy: Course of action to vote on policy Motion to accept the River Grove MACS Wellness policy drafted 12-15-17, seconded with no further discussion. Policy reads as attached. Future revisions to the plan may be necessary as time moves on, and parents will have input in the policy moving forward.

7.0 New Business

- 7.1 December 19 Band & Orchestra concert at the Marine Town Hall in the evening. January 20 from 2-4 is the donor event, unveiling of founding donor recognition—not a fundraiser.
- 7.2 Footprint Earth Foundation has donated programmable thermostats in all the buildings. They also donated LED light bulbs and sensory faucets.

8.0 Authorizer Comments

- 8.1 Marcia from Guild complemented Board on efficient and thorough meeting. Parents are interested in knowing if we are considering adding sections for next year and expanding beyond 6th grade. According to the statute, the time has passed to consider that option based on the October 1st deadline to apply for consideration. If there is interest for the year after, there would need to be a plan in place by August 1st in order to move forward with the application. We can add additional sections in our K-6 school.

9.0 Next Board of Directors Meeting: January 20, 2018 at 9:00 am

10.0 Adjournment 10:25 am