Marine Area Community School
Board Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2019 – 6:00 PM
River Grove Commons

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. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 7:25pm by Chair Miller

    1.1. Roll Call – Jackie Henschen, Bre DeCorsey, Marcy Ost, Dan Miller, Lisa Dochniak, Angie Hong, Jessica Hansen. Also in attendance, Drew Goodson.

    1.2. Approve Agenda – motion to approve by Dochniak, seconded by Henschen. Motion carried.

2. Approve Minutes September, 2019 –

    - Treasurer Ost recommended that the September minutes be amended to reflect the correct amount of the Propel loan. "In August, Grove was approved for a $100,000 loan from Propel, which will be paid back in 3yrs." Motion to amend the minutes and approve as amended by DeCorsey, seconded by Dochniak. Motion carried.

3. Public Comments

    3.1. No comments were received.

    3.2. Community Comments – no comments were received.

4. Reports and Discussion

    4.1. Administrator's Report – Drew Goodson provided an administrative update.

    - Marketing committee will meet tomorrow
    - Open enrollment begins Dec. 1
    - Social media advertising is going well
    - The new building is in use as of Monday. Jackie Henchen's 1st grade class has moved into the space.
    - New snow plowing service will begin this year. Scott DeMars has done a great job over the past two years.
    - Veterans' Day program is coming up on Nov. 11
    - Underground Railroad enactment will be happening tomorrow on site with a film crew. The organization has also volunteered to do Afro-centric instruction with our students in the future.
    - Thanks to the PTO for an awesome fall fundraiser event.
    - Trollhaugen Day coming up, led by Stephanie LeGros.
    - The Winter Choral Concert will be Tue., Dec. 10. The Winter Band and Orchestra Concert will be Wed., Dec. 18. Both will be held at Crosswinds Church in Stillwater.

- Ms. Sandy just began as the new lunch coordinator. Alexa Cole has helped to fill in after Ms. Stacy left.
- There are openings for special ed and general ed paras, as well as substitutes.
- Amy Beck and Jessica Hansen led a teacher in-service last week. Teachers are discussing what teacher-led instruction and leadership should look like.
- Grove will begin working with EdVisions next year.
- This year, all teachers at Grove have committed to doing at least one service-learning project with their students.

4.2. PTO Report – Kate Sietz

- The fall fundraiser went well, with an unofficial total of more than $18,000 raised.
- Thanks to all of the volunteers, including Megan Lapos, who led the raffle ticket sales, and Leah Malgrem, who coordinated the silent auction.
- PTO would love ideas for a facility for next year's fall fundraiser.
- Wed, Nov. 6, 5:30pm the PTO will meet in the teacher's lounge and will begin talking about spring fundraisers.

4.3 Board Member Reports

4.2.1. Financial Report - Goodson, Miller and Ost

- The board reviewed the August and September 2019 financial reports. Treasurer Ost presented the additional updates.
- Grove received 3yr, $100,000 loan at 6.5% interest from Propel to build the new building.
- In addition to providing classroom space, the new building will give SPPEd more room as well. We are also hoping to get financial training classes from Propel in the future.
- Line of credit with Marine Bank will be closed at the end of the month. We will look into potentially getting new loans through Propel for a lower interest rate. We will continue using Marine Bank as our bank.
- CSP grant has closed as of Sept. 30. We may need more support from the PTO now that those grant funds are gone.
- Our annual audit is complete and no issues were found. Will be approved by the board at the next meeting.

Motion to approve the August 2019 Financial Report by Miller. Seconded by Henschen. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the September 2019 Financial Report by DeCorsey. Seconded by Hansen. Motion carried.

4.2.2. Operations & Facilities – Goodson, Miller, Hong and Ost

- Our conditional use permit (CUP) from May Twp. needs to be updated. Our current permit has a cap that will need to be updated if our enrollment grows. The township has concerns about traffic and road conditions. Kou Vang is developing a proposal to engage contractors and a civil engineer to conduct a traffic study and help answer other questions related to the CUP update process. The board will consider this proposal at a later date.
- Goodson, Miller, and Ost will be meeting with Washington County, Wilder Foundation, MN Food Association, MN Land Trust and May Twp. to discuss the future of the Grove campus and Wilder Property. The meeting will be held on Oct. 31, 9am at Wilder in St. Paul. A Hong is also on the subcommittee but will not be participating in the conversation due to potential conflict of interest concerns.
- Miller has also spoken with a trustee from Manitou Fund about potential opportunities for collaboration between Grove and Warner Nature Center, which is scheduled to close at the end of 2019.
- Thank you to Mike Capra for providing a discount on plumbing for the new building and to Noel Molloy, who provided general contracting services.
- Jackie Henschen wrote a thank you note to the board for building the new space, which was read aloud by Chair Miller.

4.2.3. Marketing & Community Outreach – DeCorsey, Ost, Hansen, Goodson, and Ele Anderson

- Will be meeting tomorrow afternoon. Developing a marketing plan for the upcoming open enrollment period.
- DeCorsey and Miller are working to hire a grant writer to help Grove identify and apply for new funding sources.
- Grove recently applied for a grant from the St. Croix Valley Foundation to enhance our musical performances. We will find out in December if we got the money.

4.2.4 Academic Excellence - Goodson, Dochniak, Hansen, Henchen

- The committee did not meet last month.
- Goodson – new teachers have asked to be involved in the conversations.

4.2.5 Other board items?

- Miller: Attorney Laura Booth volunteered to help us update our school bylaws. It will be mostly simple changes, such as timing for the annual meeting.

5. Old Business

5.1. No old business was discussed

6. New Business

- Chair Miller talked with our authorizer, Minnesota Guild, who will attend the November board meeting to meet the new board members.
- Our annual report is due on Dec. 16. Drew Goodson will bring a draft to the November board meeting for initial review. Board needs to approve the report at its December meeting.
- The board will attend a training in St. Paul, hosted by Minnesota Association of Charter Schools on Nov. 12

7. Next Board of Directors Meeting: The board scheduled its December meeting for Wednesday, Dec. 11 to allow time to approve the annual report before the Dec. 16 deadline.

8. Next Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, November, 19 at 6:00PM

8. At 8:08pm, the board ended its open meeting. A closed door session was held to discuss a confidential personnel issue.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by DeCorsey. Seconded by Ost. Meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.