

Marine Area Community School Board of Directors Resolution of Interest in Site Expansion Plans in Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota

RESOLUTION APPROVED AT THE RIVER GROVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, HELD ON OCTOBER 8, 2018 AT 8:30PM AT 14189 OSTLUND TRAIL N, MARINE ON ST CROIX, MN 55047.

Whereas, the founding board of the Marine Area Community School pursued the development of a charter school with the original expectation that the school would be located within central Marine on St. Croix, in order to best serve the needs of Marine on St. Croix families;

Whereas the founding board of the Marine Area Community School recognized the critical importance of keeping an elementary school within the city of Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota;

Whereas a school has existed in Marine on St. Croix for 168 years, and current residents overwhelmingly support the existence of education in their town;

Whereas strong support for a school in Marine on St. Croix was shown during the 2016 fundraising effort, where the community donated approximately \$150,000 to the Marine Area Community School, with a vast majority of funds from non-parent residents of Marine on St. Croix;

Whereas the Marine Area Community School recognizes and values the input and contribution of all members of the school community;

Whereas, the Marine Area Community School included the planned use of the Marine Elementary School building in their original application to the Minnesota Department of Education and in their application to the Minnesota Guild of Charter Schools;

Whereas the founding board of Marine Area Community School intentionally designed the mission, vision, and learning program of the school based on the assets of Marine on St. Croix, including the natural resources, history, arts, and civic involvement of the community;

Whereas the long-term ownership of the current facility in Wilder Forest is undetermined and the Wilder Forest buildings currently used by Marine Area Community School are aged;

Whereas a charter school may not organize an affiliated nonprofit building corporation for the purpose of owning property before it has operated for at least six consecutive years;

Whereas current student attendance at the Marine Area Community School has exceeded the original intent of one class per grade (maximum of 175 students);

Whereas if the current rate of growth of the Marine Area Community School continues, the school will need additional space beyond what is available at the Wilder Forest location in about two years;

Whereas the capacity of the Marine Elementary School building is not large enough to accommodate the Marine Area Community School at its current enrollment level;

Whereas it is the fiduciary duty of Marine Area Community School Board of Directors to steer the Marine Area Community School towards a sustainable future;

Whereas the Marine Area Community School intends to apply to the Minnesota Department of Education for a site expansion as soon as is allowed (when the school has two years of longitudinal performance data available in August, 2019); now, therefore, be it

Resolved, if the City of Marine on St. Croix is successful in completing the purchase of the Marine Elementary School building, and if the Marine Area Community School is successful in their application for a site expansion, and if enrollment continues to grow at the current rate or higher, the Marine Area Community School desires to explore lease options with the City of Marine on St. Croix in order to expand the school to a second site at the Marine Elementary School building.