

**MARIA MONTESSORI CHARTER ACADEMY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
April 26 2011 6:30 PM**

Call to Order, 6:36 PM in the Computer Lab

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: Brent Boothby, and an unnamed guest (refer to roll call sheet when located)

BOARD PRESENT: Becky Schmich, Bill Scott, Brenda Allen, Fallon Vaughan, Heather Martin, Jason Beltz, Jennifer Tarabochia, Julie Moeller, Mandeep Gill, Robyn Garcia.

BOARD ABSENT: Bruce Houdesheldt

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Minutes from the March 28, 2011 Board Meeting. *Fallon motioned to approve minutes and Jason seconded; Bill abstained; motion passes.*
2. Minutes from the February 28, 2011 Special Board Meeting. *Julie motioned to approve minutes and Fallon seconded; Bill abstained; motion passes.*

**ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Proposal for a challenging curriculum for MMCA students: Mandeep presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining additional opportunities to provide a challenging and differentiated curriculum for highly motivated (GATE-type) students. It encompasses a greater integration of arts and technology. He said it started out as a GATE-type idea but it isn't a GATE program. His proposal is to implement a lab class with a differentiated and intellectually challenging and stimulating curriculum for the next academic year. Lengthy discussion pursued including input from the teachers on the Board, pointing out that we have ability-based groups in all classes and that about one-third of the staff is GATE-certified. A vote was taken to decide if we should vote tonight on the following proposal: To mandate a working committee along with the Educational Director to bring forth a working proposal to the May 2011 BOD Meeting for ratification with the intent of implementation immediately thereafter. The preliminary vote on whether or not to call for the question did not prevail. Discussion continued that there were too many variables to make a decision within the next month and that it shouldn't be done hastily and that perhaps it can be tabled for the June retreat.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1. Review of data from student and parent surveys. Brent provided the results of the parent surveys. About 30 percent of the students were reviewed (51 surveys representing 80 preschool-8<sup>th</sup> grade students). The scores were overall positive and supportive. Our

lowest marks came from the foreign language and extra-curricular activities questions. Brent said he should be ready to present the student surveys at the next Board meeting.

2. Update from teacher survey committee. Heather presented the draft of the teacher survey. After going through it, some thought it was a bit too long and wanted question 14 reworded or deleted. It was stressed that we want the survey to be anonymous and that questions are optional. Heather plans to update the survey with the committee and deliver it in-person at the next staff meeting the Monday after next. It was also mentioned that perhaps it could be placed on Survey Monkey.
3. Director's update. Brent gave a WASC update reporting on his experience as a WASC evaluator for the California Montessori Project (CMP). He is confident we will earn full accreditation when we go through the "full review" in a couple years. He also discussed the State Budget issues going around and referenced a Sacramento Bee article. He has some parents interested in helping with extra-curricular activities for next year. The Summer Care website has gone live and we have had about 11 families pre-register so far. Our goal is to have two FT staff per day which would require 10-12 kids per day. STAR testing is next week. Brent shared a sample of a Board survey/self evaluation that CASA uses for perspective purposes as we contemplate developing our own Board survey/self evaluation. He also emailed a summary of his report to the Board prior to the meeting.
4. Teacher representative report. Robyn requested the teachers give her information to share with the Board: Children's House is full next year with 16 on the waiting list. They had good parent participation this year. A majority were successful in the Kindergarten lottery for next year. The Orange Room is practicing for their play. The Aqua Room has been running a lot. The Blue and Red Rooms started their play rehearsal today. A 12-week program called Girls on the Run will start in September for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade girls. The fee-based club will meet twice a week after school. A trainer will be here on June 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss. There are some teachers that are interested in attending the American Montessori Society Conference in SF next year. They will fundraise for the three-day workshop. The cost is \$400 per person for the conference plus hotel and travel. They may ask PTA for support.
5. Potential date for Board retreat. Jennifer surveyed the group and we agreed on Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> from approximately 9am-3pm with the place TBD. Brenda mentioned she would look into using the community room at the new Rocklin Library.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS:

Brenda – Noticed we threw away a lot of food after lunch time. The Placer County Food Bank can take food after school if we are interested.

Julie – Mentioned that she notices that other Rocklin school submit their Honor Roll list to the Placer Herald and asked if we submit one. Brent said we do not.

Heather – Said two parents approached her at a birthday party regarding sunscreen safety and application at school. They also mentioned to her that they noticed that parents were putting young children in the front seat of cars while at the school. Perhaps this could be mentioned as part of our Health and Wellness Policy.

Becky – Shared that she completed a half-marathon and shaved 22 minutes off her time.

Jennifer – There will be a rally at the State Capitol May 9-13 if you are interested.

Jason – Said good job on the two presentations tonight.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

1. Continued discussion regarding potential litigation (Brent). No action taken.

Next meeting dates:

May 23, 2011

June 11, 2011 Board Retreat, location TBD

June 27, 2011

July 25, 2011

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT (9:15 PM)**