

**MARIA MONTESSORI CHARTER ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2011 6:30 PM**

Call to Order, 6:32PM in the conference room

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: Brent Boothby

BOARD PRESENT: Becky Schmich, Brenda Allen, Bruce Houdesheldt (via teleconference), Fallon Vaughan, Heather Martin, Jason Beltz, Jennifer Tarabochia, Julie Moeller, Mandeep Gill, Robyn Garcia.

BOARD ABSENT: Bill Scott

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Minutes from the January 13, 2011 Board Meeting. *Bruce motioned to approve minutes, all in favor, motion passes.*

INFORMATION ITEMS:

2. Director's Update: Brent mentioned that the Homework Club kicks off tomorrow with eight parent volunteers signed up to help. The Ballet Club started last week. The Running Club is getting ready to start up. The Garden Club secured a \$1,500 grant from Western Growers. Brenda secured a grant for a salad bar from Whole Foods.
3. Complete Board Training/Orientation: Brent continued with a 30 minute Board Training regarding MMCA's Finances and handed-out a four-page PowerPoint presentation.
4. Discussion of possible goals for the 2011 Board of Directors: Tabled until Bill can be present.
5. Discussion of Establishing an Election Committee for next school year's election: It was decided that those not up for re-election should be on the committee. Julie, Heather and Mandeep volunteered to be on the committee and encouraged assistance from current Board members not up for re-election.
6. Discussion of student/family exit interview process: Brent explained that when families leave the school, Cynthia sends out a form for them to complete and return. It was stated that we only get about 10% returned. The BOD Secretary then follows-up with the family and the percentage goes up to about 14%. Some families choose to explain their departure verbally to the teacher/principal. Our student retention is at about 80-85%. At the encouragement of the new Board members, Brent agreed to bring a sample of the Exit Interview survey at the next meeting.
7. Update on Parent & Student Surveys: Brent said that he was comfortable stating that we will have the surveys out by February 1st. It was explained that students in 2nd grade and above get the surveys. Heather and Brenda both inquired about staff surveys.

ACTION ITEMS

8. Request for Review of December 2010 Bylaws Action: Tabled until Bill can be present.
9. Review and Discuss Election of Officers: Jason stated that he respectfully rescinded the nomination of President. He said that his current schedule coming up won't do the role justice. Jason moved to nominate Jennifer as President and Fallon seconded it. Jennifer accepted the nomination. Discussion pursued. It was suggested that we put the vote on the agenda for the next meeting in order for the Parliamentarian (who was absent) to review the By-laws. It also was suggested that Jason and Jennifer share the role as President. More discussion led to a call for a vote after concerns of potential urgent school business occurring between this meeting and the next meeting on February 28th would necessitate a President. The vote was called and Jennifer won; 7 voted yes; 1 voted no; and 2 abstained. When given the option to take over the meeting, Jennifer deferred it back to Jason to finish out.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS:

Robyn – Excited to be back.

Jennifer – Will do her finest for this Board...spends a great deal of time in the educational world and is very capable.

Becky – Glad to be back. She is bringing “Running School” to MMCA to promote kids fitness. They are attached to Whole Foods and will put on three assemblies this school year. She mentioned her husband works for Rogers Family and is selling coffee at Costco and is working on a private MMCA label with student artwork. She also mentioned that Feb. 14th is the Friedreich's Ataxia Walk-A-Thon that will collect pledges to raise money for research for this disease that affects muscles and eventually the heart. She is looking for volunteers and a sign-up sheet was passed around.

Fallon – After reviewing the breakdown of the financials from Brent tonight, he will be looking for best practices to put together. He said he will meet with Brent before the next meeting and give Julie items to put on the agenda. He is also looking into the Foundation's nonprofit status.

Jason – Mentioned that the open gym basketball night starts tomorrow at 7:30PM.

Julie – Liked the idea of assigning a Director to each classroom to act as a liaison to the parents and Board.

Heather – Would like to go through the By-laws...possibly a section at a time each meeting. Would like to form a By-laws review committee to clean them up and present to the Board for review. It was suggested the committee include Bill, Heather, and Brenda.

Bruce – Mentioned that he was already a part of such a By-laws review committee.

Mandeep – Definitely excited to be a part of the Board. He has some ideas on funding to share with Fallon.

Brenda – Mentioned there is a problem with releasing the kids to the park after school. It appears parents who don't want to pay for daycare are allowed to “sign-off” their kids to be released to the park. Recent incidents brought to her attention by other parents include a parent using foul language to another child and parents not being able to find their children at the school when in fact they are at the park. Brent said he may address this in an upcoming newsletter article and

send an FYI to families that signed the release form of possible consequences with their kids being left unsupervised at the park.

CLOSED SESSION:

1. Continued discussion regarding potential litigation (Brent). None.

Next meeting dates:

February 28, 2011

March 28, 2011

April date TBD (holiday)

May 23, 2011

MEETING ADJOURNMENT (8:23PM)