

# Meeting Minutes- FINALIZED

## Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes Math & Science Academy Tuesday, January 2, 2018

Room 10

8430 Woodbury Crossing, Woodbury, MN 55125

1. Call to Order by Jeana Albers (Chair) at 6:00 pm

2. Mission:

We provide accelerated curricula in all subjects, with an emphasis on math and science.

Vision:

To be an innovative, sustainable model of academic excellence that creates well-rounded, lifelong learners and global citizens.

Vision and Mission read by Rita Winchester.

3. Roll Call of Members

Present:

Voting:

Jeana Albers, Chair & Teacher Member  
Ken Thielman, Vice Chair & Community Member  
Mona Hayashi, Treasurer & Parent Member  
Rita Winchester, Secretary & Parent Member  
Cheri Howe, Teacher Member  
Jeff Eng, Parent Member  
Noah Langseth, Teacher Member  
Lisa Anderson, Teacher Member

Non-voting:

Judith Darling BKDA, Contracted Financial Manager (ex officio)  
John Gawarecki, Director (ex officio)

Absent:

Voting:

Alexandria Ledo, Community Member

Non-voting:

Simran Chandak, Student Member

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**4. Determine if the MSA BOD is interested in having the building company acquire the Crosswinds property, and if so, identify and direct the next steps to be taken to purchase the Crosswinds property.**

BOD member provided background information leading up to the request for this meeting to discuss whether the BOD is interested in having the building company pursue the Crosswinds building. BOD member initiated email correspondence with representative for the Department of Administration expressing interest in the building. BOD member was told that because MSA is a charter school, it is not eligible for the property at this time. Ongoing correspondence attempted to correct misconceptions about charter schools expressed by the representative of the Department of Administration, but her most recent reply stated MSA is not eligible because it is not a political subdivision (initial research done by BOD member suggests that MSA does not meet the criteria for being a political subdivision, but may need more investigation).

The building is desirable because it is in Woodbury, near MSA's campus and MSA has a substantial waiting list.

It was presented that in order to support the cost of obtaining the building, it would need to be immediately filled with 650 students (in addition to the students already in Buildings A, B, and C). BOD discussion determined this would defeat the purpose of obtaining a space for ongoing growth.

The building has capacity for 650 students. The building currently houses people from Woodbury Leadership Association. It was discussed whether MSA could sublease to them; this would likely be considered to be unrelated business and have tax consequences.

It was presented that the building is almost 20 years old, and the status of its structure and potential repair needs was questioned.

It was suggested that the process was started, due to the legal complexities with the state, it could buy time to get the bonding needed.

BOD determined that due to the timing of the issue, the potential legal battles with the state, the need to fill the school immediately, and a potential bidding-war with St Paul School District, the BOD did not have interest in pursuing this property at this time.

BOD discussed options for growth, such as setting up buildings in other areas, small campuses in other towns to keep small school community feel. It was mentioned that cities are resisting charter schools for tax reasons and that the idea of expanding to other towns had been voted out in past years.

The suggestion was made that the substantial waiting list allows the current quality MSA is able to provide.

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It was determined that MSA needs to work with the state to provide education regarding charter schools, and lobby to change laws in place that restrict charter schools from being eligible for properties, to prevent this kind of situation from happening in the future.

### **5. Motion to Adjourn at 6:40**

**Moved by Lisa Anderson      Second Mona Hayashi**

#### **Submitted:**

**Rita Winchester, Secretary**

#### **Approved:**

**Rita Winchester, Secretary**