

APPROVE

Board of Directors Workshop Minutes Math & Science Academy Monday, March 20, 2023 Building B and Remotely

8430 Woodbury Crossing, Woodbury, MN 55125

Call to Order by Dan Ellingson at 5:00 pm

Members Present:

Voting:

Dan Ellingson, Chair

DJ Johnston, Secretary

Wendell Sletten, Treasurer

Teresa Ward

Jennifer Bartle

Hetal Patel

Non-voting:

Randy Vetsch, Director

Noah Yehalashet

Joseph Ayalew

Absent:

Voting:

Maggie Burggraaff, Vice Chair

Non-voting:

1. Workshop Agenda (5:00PM - 6:00PM)

MSA board members met with district authorizer Liz Wynne. Focus of session; Best Practice for Board governance.

Key takeaways:

- Listen and be self-reflective
- We all want what's best for the students and the entire school
- HOW we govern, matters.
- Professionalism, respect and open dialog
- As board members we must seek out the Right Info, All the Info, and Ask Questions

We must also always work to provide transparency and engage in good discourse as the BOD is an example for young people and the community.

Ms. Wynne, introduced attorney Kristin Nierengarten, who provided a refresher on Open Meeting Laws.

Submitted and Approved: DJ

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**Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Math & Science Academy
Monday, March 20, 2023
Building B and Remotely
8430 Woodbury Crossing, Woodbury, MN 55125**

2. Call to Order by Dan Ellingson at 6:15 pm

Vision and Mission read by Noah Yehalashet.

Land Acknowledgement read by Joseph Ayalew.

3. Roll Call of Members

Present:

Voting:

Dan Ellingson, Chair

DJ Johnston, Secretary

Wendell Sletten, Treasurer

Hetal Patel

Teresa Ward

Non-voting:

Randy Vetsch, Director

Joseph Ayalew, Student Representative

Noah Yehalashet, Student Representative

Absent:

Maggie Burggraaff, Vice Chair

Jennifer Bartle

4. Approval of Agenda

Conflicts of Interest: None

Motion to approve the agenda.

Moved by: Dan Ellingson Second: Wendell Sletten

Discussion:

Add to Decisions:

15J - Gov Walz proposal on universal lunches.

Motion to approve agenda as amended.

Vote: 5-yes 0-no 0-abstain

The motion carries.

5. MSA Monthly Celebration

Girls Basketball, Brady Krisko, Greta Hanson

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6. Open Forum

Heather Krisko - merger - Will there be joint hall meetings?

Gary Klonecz- ethics - Raised concerns about chair and unethical behaviors of outbursts, verbal bullying, and out of order.

Jamie Brodd- business merger - Question on bussing and transportation with merger.

Kim Jensen - Policy 102.2 - Concerns for equity for all.

Annette Smith - Concern on transparency of merger. Handout provided.

Dee LaRos- enrollment - Bond question. Handout provided.

Diane Thiags- expansion - Options and directions shared in public doesn't match at committee meetings.

Mary Yapp - Emergent policies passed. Speaking for special needs students.

7. Approval of Minutes.

a. Motion to approve the BOD Meeting Minutes, February 27, 2023.

Moved by: Dan Ellingson

Second: DJ Johnston

Discussion:

Correction:

Change to "deformation".

Vote: 5-yes 0-no 0-abstain

The motion carries.

8. Chairs' Report

Mr. Ellingson - Thanks for the feedback. He noted common concerns. There were alot of questions. Some are still ongoing. There are four concerns. The Authorizer recommended training: open laws, how to treat people's data correctly. Have asked for external help: how can we grow together and how we govern. Please come as an antagonist for debate. Need everyone to come with ideas and put it to a vote.

Feedback on consent agenda items which should be non-controversial. New policies deserve feedback. Policy 102.3 is in consent agenda and also in discussion.

Board Bartle has resigned effective immediately.

Mr. Sletten asked if he could also see the emails that Mr. Ellingson has received.

Hetal and Wendell asked about a central email for the board.

9. Student Representative Communication and Update

Ayalew - He competed at regional and placed first and qualified for state this weekend.

He has seen increased division amongst the MSA community and would like to see board work through it.

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Yehalashet - Policy 102.1 and 102.2 and 102.3, Great to hear that the students were heard. Continued accountability and equity will trickle down to the students and hope to continue to see.

9. Executive Director's Report

a. Merger and expansion

Mr. Vetsch - Looked at all options and presented to the board. Cost of land and bond rates made it impossible to build. Possible split site which would be limited on remodeling. Merger is viable.

If we do nothing what would happen? We would lose money and future would not look good.

If there is not a merger, we need to grow and need a long term plan to grow.

Might have to look at multiple sites again. Keep 6-12 here and build a middle school somewhere else.

b. Plans for 2023-24

Dr. Hinton - Implement Block Schedule, bring back College in School, Packet will be sent out March 31. We don't have the AP class yet.

10. Chair's Report

None

11. Board Committees

Governance/Policy (Patel): Report submitted.

Elections (Burggraaff): Report submitted.

Merger (Burggraaff): No report submitted.

School Expansion: No report submitted.

Finance (Sletten): Report submitted. Mr. Sletten provided an overview.

Motion to approve the February Financials.

Moved by: Wendell Sletten Second: Hetal Patel

Discussion:

None

Vote: 5-yes 0-no 0-abstain

The motion carries.

12. Consent Agenda

a. First read of:

i. By-Law revisions

ii. Policy 102.3 Disability Rights, Inclusion, and Access Proposed

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- iii. Policy 301 Charter School Admin Proposed
- iv. Policy 302 Executive Director Proposed
- v. Policy 303 Executive Director Selection Proposed
- vi. Policy 304 Executive Director Contract, Duties, and Evaluation Proposed
- vii. Policy 305 Policy Implementation
- viii. Policy 306 Admin Code of Ethics
 - 1. Policy 306 Current
 - 2. Policy 306 Proposed
- b. Second read and approval of:
 - i. Policy 102.2 Gender Diverse, Nonbinary, Transgender, and Sexual Orientation Equity Policy
 - ii. Policy 203 Operation of the School Board - Governing Rules
 - iii. Policy 203.2 Order of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting
 - iv. Policy 203.5 School Board Meeting Agenda
 - v. Policy 203.6 Consent Agenda
 - vi. Policy 204 School Board Meeting Minutes
 - vii. Policy 205 Open Meetings and Closed Meetings
 - viii. Policy 206 Public Participation in School Board Meetings/Complaints about Persons at School Board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations
 - ix. Policy 209 Code of Ethics
 - x. Policy 210.1 Conflict of Interest - School Board Members
 - xi. Policy 211 Criminal or Civil Action Against Charter School or Member, Employee, or Student
 - xii. Policy 212 Charter School Board Member Development
 - xiii. Policy 214 Out of State Travel by School Board Members

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Moved by: Dan Ellingson Second: Hetal Patel

Discussion:
None

Vote: 5-yes 0-no 0-abstain
The motion carries.

13. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- a. DEI Training Workshop - need dates
- b. DEI Dashboard & next steps
 - i. BOD Onboarding Process Improvement
 - ii. BOD Training before/after seating

Discussion:

Mr. Ellingson noted that Board members should take advantage of the training when new board members come on.

14. Board recessed at 7:30 pm.

Board resumed at 7:38 pm.

15. Discussion and Decision

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a. New Board Recorder Request

Discussion:

Shauni Holt will start next month.

b. Community Board Member

Discussion:

Have made an offer to someone and am waiting to hear back. The community member is required to be a resident of Minnesota.

c. Expansion Committee next steps

Discussion:

Board discussed the committee, purpose, and renaming it. Mr. Johnston volunteered to chair the committee.

Motion to change the name to Facilities Committee with a charge of advising on securing sustainable facilities that support MSA growth and DJ Johnston is on the committee.

Moved by: Dan Ellingson Second: Teresa Ward

Vote: 5-yes 0-no 0-abstain

The motion carries.

d. Merger Brief Discussion and Next Steps

Discussion:

Mr. Ellingson went through responses to WYAL. It is posted on the MSA website.

Mr. Vetsch shared the merger brief. Each board shared their opinion on the merger.

e. Election discussion and approval

Discussion:

Ms. Ward - Met as a committee last Monday. Nominations will be open tomorrow. Community email goes out tomorrow. It will run in daily announcements. It closes on 3/29. Committee will create a ballot on 3/30. 4/3 elections start. 4/4 community email goes out. 4/12 community email again. 4/13 voting closes at noon. Committee certifies on Thursday. Board certifies results at the April meeting. New members seated at the June meeting.

Positions are parent and 2 teachers.

Motion to approve the recommendation as presented.

Moved by: Dan Ellingson Second: Teresa Ward

Discussion:

None

Vote: 5-yes 0-no 0-abstain

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The motion carries.

f. Discuss Policy 102.3 Disability Rights, Inclusion, and Access

Discussion:

Ms. Patel noted that the committee was small last time. Board discussed the importance and to emergently pass the policy. Board discussed the use of due process vs always emergently passing as a norm.

Motion to emergently pass the policy.

Moved by: Hetal Patel Second: DJ Johnston

Discussion:

None

Vote: 5-yes 0-no 0-abstain

The motion carries.

g. 2023-24 Enrollment number discussion and approval

Discussion:

Board discussed the numbers. There will need to be better planning for squeezing students through the hallway.

Motion to approve the administrative recommendation.

Moved by: Dan Ellingson Second: Teresa Ward

Discussion:

Board discussed the effects of this on block scheduling.

Vote: 5-yes 0-no 0-abstain

The motion carries.

h. Executive Director Contract Process 2023-24

Discussion:

Mr. Ellingson - Propose to have a closed session in April to draft a contract proposal for the Executive Director. The proposal will be public. There will be a final review. There was a midyear review that helps to inform the renewal of the contract.

i. April BOD date / timing

Discussion:

Mr. Ellingson will have to miss the April 17 BOD meeting.

j. Gov Walz proposal on universal lunches.

Discussion:

Lunch is free but what does that mean? They are looking into it.

16. Future BOD Items

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- a. April
 - i. 2023-24 Budget
 - ii. Strategic Plan Review - workshop potential
 - iii. DEI training
- b. May - TBD

17. Meeting Plus/Minus

Plus:

There was a lot of open dialogue on the merger.
Higher level of comfort on the board. More productive.
Thank you to Liz for tonight.

Minus:

Lacked other views. It is one sided.

18. Motion to adjourn at 9:15 pm.

Moved by: Dan Ellingson Second: DJ Johnston

Vote: 5-yes 0-no 0-abstain
The motion carries.

Submitted:

Ia Xiong, Board Recorder

Approved: DJ Johnston, Board Secretary