



March 11, 2023
Quarterly and Annual Board Meeting
Montessori School of Englewood

Location: WebEx

Present/Not Present:

Board Members: Karen Anderson, Joe Motto, Jim Sulzer, Peter Cunningham (joined late, 9:38 am), Ebonie Townsend, Gabrielle Sansonetti, Rita Nolan, Peter Talmers; Tiffany White (not present); Jim Sulzer; Tanesha Peeples, Marv Hoffman (not present), Jonathin White (joined late)

Executive Director: Rita Nolan

School staff: Maggie Mikuzis

Chief Financial Officer: Chris
Shue

Meeting minutes and recording taken by: Gabrielle R. Sansonetti

I. Call to Order

Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:03

Gabrielle took roll as reflected above.

II. Preliminary Comments

Karen Anderson acknowledged the recent passing of a student and called for a moment of silence.

III. Approval Minutes

Motion.



January 2023 minutes were circulated and reviewed by board members. Sulzer moved to approve the minutes. Talmers seconded. Motion passed unanimous without discussion.

IV. Accounting & Financial Presentation

Joe Motto introduced Chris Shue, TMSOE's accounting specialist from AHS.

Chris Shue reviewed a financial presentation, which is attached to these minutes.

Highlights:

- The annual books were closed in February.
- All metrics meet CPS Scorecard as of February 28, 2023.

IV. Student Spotlight

Nolan reported regarding the recent loss of a student. The school assisted with the gatherings and necessary expenses related to the death. The school is assisting the other students and community with grief resources.

V. Extension of Board Member Terms

Motion.

Ebonie Townsend, Vice President, and Tanesha Peeples' terms ended. The Executive Committee recommends extending their terms to 2/26/2026. Sulzer moved to extend. Talmers seconded. After no discussion, the motions was passed unanimously.

VI. Development and Spring Fundraiser

There is more urgency to have a successful fundraiser due to the passing of our student. With respect to the fundraiser, Ebonie reported the following:

- Invitations went out, everyone should have received one.



- Ebonie visited the space; hired a decorator to do a photography display; a videographer with content that will play at the fundraiser. Ebonie is working on the program.
- Winston and Strawn is providing the space, food and beverages.

VII. Building Report

The playground project has started. They are breaking ground this Monday. Currently everything is on schedule. The plan is to be done by May 15, 2023. They are painting 4 square areas, that may be delayed due to ordering the wrong type of paint. A water installation may also be delayed due to an error in CPS' bidding process.

TMSOE hosted an input session from school faculty, students, parents, and community stakeholders. This consisted of an overall presentation from Depave. Stakeholders were able to engage in developing.

The additional attachments are thoughts/designs for the space. Depave and CPS had their initial meeting to discuss the project on 02/14. CPS is enthusiastic about the project, TMSOE is developing follow-up questions regarding permits and safety. CPS met with its internal capital projects team this week, and we are awaiting their additional responses.

The elevator inspection was successfully passed.

Maggie is developing a short term and long-term plan for maintaining and developing the building within budgetary constraints.

VIII. Executive Director Report

See attached. Highlights:

- Enrollment is consistent.
- TMSOE put in bids for the north on 69th corner parcels of land for purchase. We are seeking more room in the school for growth. Currently, there is no commitment, but will come back to the board if purchasing the land is possible.



- MAP scores are not aligning due to test changes. Certain students are piloting a tutoring program. The school is assessing how to improve the scores for the students.
- Fundraising. Encourage the board to give their pledge.
- Head Start. Parent meeting 3/3. The parent meeting approved SNAP benefits. The board needs to approve the parents' recommendation.

Motion

Townsend moved to approve the inclusion of our school head start materials regarding the availability of SNAP benefits. Tallmers seconded. After no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

- Chronic Absenteeism and Attendance. When a student has 18 or more school days, 10% of the school year, it counts as chronic absenteeism whether it is excused or not. However, for CPS schools excused absences do not count towards chronic absenteeism.

Last year chronic absenteeism was about 62%, which was consistent with neighboring school. Pre-pandemic it was 16%. Currently we are at 18%. There are four people on attendance team, that calls home every day, and TMSOE staff tries to meet with parents.

- Students scored 70th percentile on a cultivate survey. There was a 95% response rate. Students were challenged with the concept of growth mindset. It is an area that they really want to work on. Regarding the safety of the school, curriculum, etc.

IX. Reports from Staff

None.

X. New Business

The Open Meetings Act will require in person attendance starting May 12, 2023.



XI. Public Comment

There was no public comment. With no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 11:04 am