

Board Minutes: Maritime Charter School

October 18, 2018

Present: B. Tompkins, G. Crawley, S. Iraci, and K. Terryberry

Absent or excused: T. O'Brien, T. Giles, J. Eicheldinger, D. Johnson, B. Bunny

Others present: C. Oldenburg, D. Comerford, J. Mellott, (B. Morrison excused), and R. Zielinski (Kirisitis & Associates)

Topics and Discussion

Call to order: 5:21 pm. **No actions could be taken** because the committee did not have a quorum. Meeting did continue for informational purposes only. Order of agenda was changed to accommodate those present.

Review of Minutes: Committee did review minutes from previous meeting and indicated one item for change: B. Tompkins was present and B. Bunny was not listed as either present or absent.

Financial Audit Report: R. Zielinski from Kirisitis and Associates delivered summary of audit done by R.A. Mercer. Zielinski highlighted components of the report: Balance Sheet, Statement of Activities, and then specifically Cash flows, Payments, and Expenses. The audit shows healthy financial management and a balance between adding 48 new students to the Middle School and the costs for payroll as well as debt for new construction.

Public Comment: At 5:50 pm, group of approximately 15-20 people intended to comment about the plans to expand the Buffum St School. Only 1 was on the agenda:

- Carl Jemison, a resident of Fields Avenue who claimed to represent the 6 Nations and specifically the Seneca Nation of Indians, claimed that any construction on the Buffum St property would be disruptive to the historical significance of the land in relation to Seneca Nation burial grounds. Jemison questioned the authority of the law as well as the legitimacy of the United States and the actions of the US Military.
- Degawenodas, who was not scheduled to speak, sought permission to ask a question, and he was allowed. He questioned whether the board had made alternative plans to build elsewhere, and then he made claims that he, personally, would not allow for the plan to move forward.

The board did not respond to their claims or their questions other than to indicate that the process is on-going and no decisions can be made until the process is complete.

Middle School Report: Col J Mellott reminded the Board of the planned Open House, scheduled for October 24th, at 9 am. This time is unique in that it will invite the public to view the school as it is in session. Also, students from the school distributed more than 200 flyers to the residents in the area.

Faculty Report: No report

Academic Report: S. Iraci presented NWEA data that compared results across 3 years in Reading, Language Usage, and Math. The results generally showed progress and correlations with the

demographic Maritime serves and with state averages. Some of the results from the Middle School showed a reversal in progress, but Cmd Oldenburg and Col Mellott provided variables that could influence these results. They also assured the Board that procedures and changes are in place to raise these scores. The Board was also informed of how State Ed uses these data to chart progress of schools, which raised concerns about statistical measures versus actual changes in their decision making.

Administration: Cmd Oldenburg reported on the conference attended for Charter Schools. She noted various changes in reporting, scoring processes, and procedure. The meeting generally was informative and helpful, but it did raise concerns in understanding how these changes will affect Maritime and its future reaccreditation efforts. Cmd Oldenburg discussed ways to increase Maritime's political relationships as a means to promote Charter School education at the State and local level. Additionally, Cmd Oldenburg indicated that discipline in the school is generally good, and ARB assignments are 58 for the first quarter, compared to 167 in the first quarter of last year.

Parent Report: K Terryberry reported on an effort to raise parent input through fundraising. With Cmd Oldenburg's support, he sent electronic and social media messages encouraging parents to join the newly-forming Maritime Advocacy Group, which would raise money for various entities of the school. Only 1 parent responded; however, Mst Chief Pugh did contribute some electronic resources to help initiate fund raising on various levels. Cmd Oldenburg mentioned that Stf Sgt Vasquez was familiar with fundraising as well, and the board discussed various reasons for the lack of parental involvement in educational matters. The board also discussed whether an electronic forum may be helpful in increasing parental involvement.

Next Board meeting will be November 15th at 5:15 pm.

Adjournment: 6:58

Respectfully submitted by K. Terryberry on 10/19/18.