

Hill View Montessori Charter Public School
Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 16, 2006

Board Members Present:

Ed Maguire, Nandesh Palanisamy, Shaw Rosen, Kelly Martin, Veronica O'Brien, Paul Accardi, Peg Roberts (Ex Officio)

Board Members Not Present:

David Kelly, John Michitson, Ross Povenmire

Other Attendees:

Melanie Wilson, John Nolan, Heidi Steen Johnson, Rebecca & Glenn Driscoll, Steve Boyle, Cheryl Kenney, Carry Wyse

I. Minutes

Shaw called meeting to order.

Minutes of the last month's board meeting were reviewed.

Nandesh motioned to accept minutes. Paul 2nd

Minutes accepted. All in favor. None opposed.

II. Student Presentation

Shaw proposed moving item IV in agenda to hold the student presentations to item II. Every one agreed.

Josh Driscoll and Julie Kenney from Deborah McDonald's class demonstrated multiplication and division using Montessori materials.

BOT members thanked students for the presentation.

Glenn Driscoll appreciated the knowledge and the ability to abstract higher-level math concepts students gaining due to the Montessori method of learning.

III. Finance Committee Report

Paul presented the quarterly Balance sheet and Profit and Loss statement. Ed asked whether the finance committee could provide a forecast for the fiscal year to enable any change in spending if there is a need. Paul mentioned that the Finance Committee would work on it. BOT members asked Peg, whether there is any need for change in the budget if there is money available. Shaw asked about the process for changing the budget. BOT will ask finance committee if there is a need. Finance committee will make a recommendation if it can be accommodated.

Nandesh motioned to accept the Quarterly financial results. Ed seconded.

Quarterly financial results accepted. All in favor. None opposed.

IV. E.D. Report

- a. Peg presented the draft charter promises document she is working on. She mentioned that this document was initially created by a committee based on the consultant's recommendation to capture the things that need to be done absolutely as per charter. Now she is the only person working on it. She also mentioned that the strategies may change but the promises won't change. BOT members asked about the timeline, the next step and the dissemination. Peg replied that she will continue to work on it and will bring the next draft for the next meeting. Upon approval, this document will be posted on the website.
- b. Peg talked about charter amendment to increase the number of slots. Our current charter allows for 243 and we will be requesting that number to be increased to 325 as per DOE suggestion allowing 40 students per grade. Shaw asked about the date it need to be decided. BOT members would like more information including pros and cons of the increase be presented to them before making a decision. Shaw recommended postponing the issue to a future meeting until such information is provided.
- c. BOT members talked about additional spending needs. Peg replied that there are some needs like purchasing Montessori materials and a need for increasing the admin staff as the school size is increasing and the admin staff still only 4. BOT members discussed how the change in needs will be brought to their attention. ED will present any need as part of the ED report.

V. Old Business

a. 2006/2007 BOT Goals

Shaw thanked the committee for working on completing the goals. Two goals were presented for approval. Shaw noted that it's unique in the sense that the BOT involved all the stakeholders including parents, staff and BOT in preparing the goals for 2006/2007. Ed presented the communication goals and academic goals.

Melanie noted that the Upper Elementary Scope of Work Alignment should be 3/15/07 not 3/01/07. Upon approval, the goals will be communicated to parents with a letter from the chair in the Wednesday folder. It will also be posted on the HVM website.

Nandesh motioned to accept the communication goals. Veronica seconded.

Communication goals accepted. All in favor. None opposed.

Paul motioned to accept the academic goal as amended. Nandesh seconded.

Academic goals accepted as amended. All in favor. None opposed.

b. MCAS Results

Melanie presented her analysis of MCAS results. The analysis identified relative areas of strength and weaknesses within 10% (+/-) against the state average. She also presented strategies for addressing the areas that needed improvement based on the analysis. She also mentioned that the homework for students would slightly increase to with the rule of thumb being 10 minutes per grade level per night. The two key areas she identified included test taking and abstraction. A discussion ensued. BOT members noted that the analysis should be performed to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses against the proficient level and not against the state average. Ed complemented Melanie for the improvements t year. But she said she would work on completing them as requested. BOT requested the E.D. to revise the analysis to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses against the proficient level and the strategies to address them. Shaw asked if there are any other resources needed to complete this. Melanie expressed concerns about balancing her administrative workload against attending the needs of the children.

VI. Committees/Task forces

a. ED Evaluation task force

Kelly mentioned that this year we will be using new tools and the process will be lot simpler. Task force will meet by 1st week of December 2006 and the evaluation will be done by Feb 2007.

b. Site update

Veronica presented the Site Task Force report. The Site Task Force recommended the agreement between CRESA and HVM be terminated based on the current change in HVM site needs. Site committee also recommended that if there is a need in the future we go with a local real estate firm. Nandesh asked whether it is an at will agreement. Veronica replied that it is an at will agreement.

Motion to terminate the agreement for real estate services with CRESA by Ed. Seconded by Paul.

Motion accepted.

5 in favor. Veronica abstained from voting.

VII. Public Comments

None.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Ed. Seconded by Veronica.

Motion accepted.

All in favor. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.