

**Hill View Montessori Charter School
Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2006**

Board Members Present:

Paul Accardi
Janet Begin
David Kelley
Nancy London
Kelly Martin
John Michitson
Veronica O'Brien
Nandesh Palisany
Ross Povenmire
Peg Roberts, Ex-officio
Shaw Rosen

Board Members Not Present:

Erik Ingersoll

Other attendees:

Roger Begin
Heidi Steen-Johnsen
John Nolan
Nancy Parshley
Lee Ann Axford
Nicole Maguder
Mary Lynch
Steve Boyle
Jo Morrill

Meeting Began: 6:33p.m.

I. Meeting Minutes & Agenda

Motion by Nandesh to accept last month's minutes and the meeting agenda. Seconded by Paul.

Nandesh pointed out some errors in the minutes. Minutes will be updated to reflect changes.

Motion to accept the amended minutes.

All in favor.

None opposed.

Motion passed.

II. Public Comment

Roger Begin, parent, read a letter about to the board about staff turnover.

III. Monthly financials

Paul provided a brief overview of the financial statements.

Motion to accept by Nandesh, seconded by Nancy.

All in favor.

None opposed.

Motion passed.

Question about Peg's pay raise. Who decides? When?
Item will be taken up in ED Eval Task Force.

IV. Executive Director Report

Charter Promises

Peg provided an explanation of the status of the Charter Promises document.

BOT members asked clarification questions including promises (cannot be changed) vs. strategies as well as a format for easier comprehension. Charter page numbers appear in the 1st column.

The task force will be convening to finish this once the MTL starts. Next step is to put all the strategies under each promise, confirm that each are in fact promises and decide how the promises can be changed.

There was a request for a time line of when it will be completed. The ED responded that it will be worked on over the summer.

Executive Director Report

MCAS testing starts next week.

BOT members asked questions about the following items:

- upcoming parent sessions
- status of MTL hiring – Melanie Wilson will start on June 19th
- staff survey results available to parents. Will be put on web.
- family survey date – June
- status of benchmarks
- reasons for staff leaving
- exit interviews including BOT or 3rd party involvement
- community involvement. Including being included in events/activities
- Upper Elementary teacher has also been hired.

V. Retreat

June 10th is confirmed including a couple of hours on the evening of June 9th. The facilitator will be talking to parents and staff and bringing back information to the trustees committee.

Question was asked about parent sessions. According to the ED, the proposal wasn't set up to include all parents. Approximately four will be chosen to participate. The Trustees committee is going to look into this. A question came up about the MTL participating in the process.

VI. Committee/Task Forces

Site Task Force Report

Attorney is reviewing the contract for the modular units. Plans will be reviewed and revised. Project schedule with a date of completion of August 22nd pending city approvals, soil tests, building permits.

Question about whether we can display the plan at the school for parents and visitors to see. Task Force will display the final drawings in about a week.

Technology Committee

Site is close to completion. BOT should go to it and provide feedback. BOT materials are now on there, more changes being made. Parents should also provide feedback on the link.

Nominating Committee

Nominating committee suggests receiving assistance from a school employee to take the minutes. The Clerk will review the minutes and see that they're published.

Motion by Ross to provide an assistant for the clerk position (paid, staff person from HVM) whose duties to include take minutes and provide a draft to the clerk and to post the meetings at City Hall. Second by Nancy.

All in favor.

None opposed.

Motion passed.

Report by the nominating committee to recommend the following officers:

Shaw Rosen, Chairperson

Kelly Martin, Vice Chair

Paul Accardi, Treasurer

Nandesh Palisany, Clerk

Motion by Ross to accept the slate of offices by the BOT. Seconded by Nancy.

Discussion: The vote should occur at our annual meeting in June.

All in favor.

None opposed.

Motion to passed.

VII. Public Comment

Steve Boyle completed the letter that was started by Roger Begin at the beginning of the meeting.

Steve referenced a letter sent to David that people speaking be allowed to speak at the beginning of the meeting on any topic not just those on the agenda.

Nicole Maguder asked questions about retreat session times and stated her opinion about the difficulty faced by parents who are board members and are not allowed to speak to staff. She also asked about the time frame for parent surveys to be put on the web. She asked about the possibility of filling the remaining four teachers positions and whether we feel confident about hiring them.

Question from David to the trustees committee about how to select parent representatives for the retreat.

Lee Ann Axford expressed her concerns about the turnover and the direction of the school. She commented on the possibility of improvement in communications between teachers, administration and BOT.

Ross suggested we think outside of the box to do a better job including parent comment during the meeting. He suggested a comment period after each agenda item. Kelly suggested we bring issues to the BOT on behalf of parents. Shaw and David agreed that items should be brought to the BOT for addition to the agenda.

VIII. Announcements

Kindergarten will be let out at noon on May 25th and 26th to accommodate kindergarten screenings for next year.

Motion to adjourn by Veronica. Seconded by Kelly.

All in favor.

None opposed.
Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned: 8:16 p.m.