



**GEIST MONTESSORI ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING AGENDA**

Meeting Location

GMA North Campus, 13942 E 96th St. McCordsville, IN 46055

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

5:30pm

BOARD MEMBERS

Nick Wright - President | Uriah Ellis - Treasurer | Kirby Durham - At-Large Member

STAFF

Karen Swan - Co-Interim Executive Director | Logan Bonar - Co-Interim Executive Director
Karinda Holland - Controller

GUEST

Ryan Thomas, VP Construction with Lauth Property Group

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD BY PARENTS AND CITIZENS

Geist Montessori Academy (“School”) welcomes your participation at the School’s Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Directors (“Board”) is to conduct the affairs of the School in public. We are pleased that you are in attendance and hope that you will visit these meetings often. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our School. To assist you in the ease of speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided.

1. Agendas are available to all audience members at the door to the meeting.
2. “Oral Communications” are set-aside for members of the audience to raise issues that are not specifically on the agenda. However, due to public meetings laws, the Board can only listen to your issue, not immediately respond or take action. These presentations are limited to five (5) minutes and total time allotted to non-agenda items will not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern or you may be offered the option of returning with a citizen-requested item.
3. Citizens may request that a topic related to School business be placed on a future agenda. Once such an item is properly set in the agenda and publicly noticed, the Board can respond, interact, and act upon the item.
4. When addressing the Board, speakers are requested to state their full name and adhere to the time limits set forth.

Attendees: Nick Wright, Kirby Durham, Uriah Ellis

Meeting called to order at 5:36 pm by Nick.

Kirby motions for the approval of the August minutes and Uriah seconds. All vote in the affirmative.

The role of Secretary of the Board will be appointed to Kirby Durham. There are no objections. Kirby will serve as Secretary moving forward.

Kirby motions that two candidates, Lacey Willard & Andrew Cavallaro, be approved to become board members as of 9/17/2019, pending background checks. Second by Uriah. No Objections.

Enrollment: 367, regular school, 406 total enrollments, including PreK.

Staffing Development remains a priority for the co-interim directors. Key metrics for staffing development included a 1.96% turnover rate-dramatically reduced from past tracking. Additional certifications and professional development are being scheduled for staff this year as well.

Co-Interim directors provide updates on grant activity, moving company quotes for the move to the new school, and a Parent Information Meeting being held on October 26th at the South Campus.

Logan is searching for a system like Skyward, Power School, and Canvas to keep better track of attendance, behavior and grades that can be connected directly to the DOE. Kirby comments that this is the kind of initiative the Board is looking for. Uriah asks if Logan is leaning toward one system or another and queries if one is better than another to fit our needs.

Ryan Crumb contacted Logan who said a parent was concerned about a fire safety issue with PreK students being upstairs. The Building inspector and the fire marshal came out and there were no concerns on their part.

SuperHero Run was "the best we have ever had" (Karen Swan). We had firefighters and a firetruck and a medivac helicopter. The students got to meet these everyday heroes. The event was an amazing success. Parents and students were talking and there was much excitement surrounding this event.

Uriah Ellis provides an update on finances. It was noted that during the finance committee meeting there were transactions done by the Controller that violated the current financial authority matrix. The board votes and approves to lower the financial authority matrix from \$5000 to \$0.01 to ensure proper oversight. Uriah feels that this is the Board's fiduciary duty.

Ryan Thomas from Lauth reports that interior gas lines, pipes is 90% complete, steel framing is 99% complete, windows are complete, majority of stone base is complete. Asphalt is our biggest concern, but we are in good shape for late October. Goal is to complete prep work. Dry wall was delivered today and anticipate it to be complete in 30 days. Signs and interior work will be worked on over the next 30 days. Change order for structural steel needs approval, Nick says there is a meeting set up with Lancer to discuss this. Kim Bui asks if there is a definite date for the new building to open- Nick and Ryan state that we are still looking at Dec. 16, 2019.

Kirby provides an update on the capital campaign. The board will have conversations with Hartsook to develop a feasibility study to provide to the board. Karinda confirms that the school can cashflow on its own from operations in the new building and that a capital injection is not a requirement to pay all debt.

Nick provides an update on the Executive Director search. Candidates are being interviewed and the board is doing due diligence to search and put the right person(s) in place. Nick encourages staff and public to continue to give input.

Staff member requests the donation of 10 PTO days be given to another staff member during maternity leave. Kirby motions to approve. Nick says that the Board cares about everyone and that everyone is important and there are many benefits other than a salary. Nick seconds the motion. Jill Zapf comments that this typical in other school systems. The board approves the request and is open to looking into other requests of this type in the future.

The floor is open for public comment. No public comment.

Kirby notes that the meeting date for October will be the 22nd of October, due to fall break.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:34 pm