

Board Meeting Minutes – 11.19.2019

Meeting called to Order – 5:35pm

Attendees: All Board Members in Attendance

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions - All

Consent Agenda

Motion by Andrew to approve the minutes for October. Second by Lacey. All approve.

Motion by Lacey to approve the minutes for November 6th. Second by Andrew. All approve.

Office of the Executive Director

Presentation by Executive Director, Cindy Schuler. Cindy noted that her core principals align with the Montessori education. Cindy shared her background with experience in teaching from the kindergarten level through the collegiate level. She highlighted 12 years at HSE, being the district Administrator at Elwood Schools and her global experience at:

- School Level
- District Level
- State Level

Cindy noted that her passion is with teaching the children, engaging the community, and fostering a school family environment. She studied the Montessori education at Indiana University, and focuses on authentic individualized learning. Cindy noted at the leadership team (Cindy, Logan, and Karen) will be getting administrative leadership certification through the American Montessori Society. She wants to continue to foster partnerships with Ball State, Community Montessori of New Albany, and Hancock Regional Hospital. In the past Cindy has partnered with Lilly, Roche, and other corporate partners. When it comes to communication Cindy noted that she will be providing the parent community with weekly newsletters to provide updates on all things GMA. Finally, Cindy noted that this is not her school, but this is our school and together we will create a GMA community that leads to exceptional student performances.

After her presentation Cindy had the room take a picture and she posted it onto the new GMA Twitter feed.

Logan provided his final Co-Interim Executive Directors report and noted the great work by Mrs. Angela in executing upon the middle school parent night. There was tremendous turnout and parents in attendance noted their appreciation. Logan shared that the executive team continues to monitor carline. Carline has performed well, and they will continue to monitor the progress, including the new

school and having a carline that exceeds parents expectations. Finally, Logan requested the board approve e-Learning days for January 7th and 8th. There would be no changes to the December schedule and the additional two days allow the staff to have their rooms in perfect order for the opening in the new building.

Lacey motioned for the approval of January 7th and 8th for e-Learning days. Andrew seconds the motion. All approve. Parents and staff show appreciation for this decision. Lacey motioned for the approval of the <5% fee increase for next year. Andrew seconds the motion. All approve. Lacey motioned for the staff to research before and after school programs. Andrew seconds the motion. All approve.

Board President notes his appreciation for Logan and Karen. The two co-interim executive directors lead GMA at the start of the school year and with the introduction of Cindy, we now have three leaders who will build GMA into the best school possible.

Committee Reviews

Facilities Committee – Rob from Lauth

Rob provided a presentation (with visuals) of the car line flow at the new building. The visuals are based off very large vehicles (Full Size SUV's) and the presentation shows that GMA has the capacity for carline at one location. The flow has been approved by the city of McCordsville as well.

Finance Pillar – Uriah

The board treasurer noted the strong financial performance that GMA continues to hold itself to. The new controller, Jack Caldwell, has done an exemplary job in cleaning up payments that were slow to be paid in the past. Uriah let the board know that legal fees are ahead of schedule and that the audit will be done the first week of December. Overall the fiscal responsibility of the board and the financial performance align for long-term growth.

Community Outreach Pillar – Lacey

Lacey noted that parent surveys will be going out tomorrow and they will have a window of completion until December 4. The benchmarks for the survey will be K-8, and surveys are optional for completion. Lacey also noted that Survey Monkey will be the software platform for the survey.

Organizational Governance Pillar – Kirby

Kirby provided an update on the board member search and noted that in November he met with a candidate who has an education background. To date this is the only applicate with an education background to apply. Kirby let everyone know that the board is open to adding additional board members, that there is no hold period on adding board members, and that the first step in becoming a board member is to apply. After the application is received, the board secretary will meet with the candidate and provide details regarding the commitment (ex. Time, training, terms, etc.)

New Business

Lacey noted that private breakout sessions are available to those individuals interested in sharing feedback on all things GMA. Interested parties can sign up tonight or can schedule open office hours for a later time. Michelle Neff was introduced, and Nick welcomed her to GMA.

Public Comment

Jill Zapf (GMA teacher) – She asked if the assistants will be able to get paid for the time they come in during e-learning days and it was confirmed that they will get paid.

Mr. Harper (parent) – Asked about the board reviewing policies and compliance. Board President Nick let him know that policies and compliance are being reviewed and that the break out sessions are available to answer additional questions.

Rachel Bruval (parent) – Asked that communication continue to be a priority and that any information available prior to board meetings (ex. Agenda) be made available if possible. Cindy responded that as soon as an agenda is available, she will share it with the parent community. Board member Andrew also shared that the board is working on revamping the GMA website to have more information available to the parents and GMA community.

Felicia Wilson (parent) – Asked why GMA is doing the pledge of allegiance to start board meetings. President Nick let her know that the board has wanted to do this for a long period of time, and Lacey took the initiative by bringing in the American flag. Felicia asked about the material fees increase, adjusted legal fees, the structure of the survey, and how parents will receive weather notifications. Logan let her know that TV, mobile, and online notifications will go out.

Danielle Hoyer (parent) – Recommended that old notes and public responses be available online. President Nick let her know that they are found in the minutes and that all information is currently available on the GMA website.

Melissa Reynolds (parent) – Asked if a discount for early payment of material fees will continue to be an option. Jack responded back that the same discount will apply for early payments.

Jenifer Claus (parent) – Asked that a notification go out when the new school times are decided. Logan let her know that it would be done immediately.

After public comment the board shared their favorite Montessori quotes, and this was well received by the public.

Meeting Called to Adjournment – 6:48pm