

The Mountain Community School Board
Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2023
Location: The Mountain Community School

Call to Order

6:04 p.m. by Sarah Cosgrove

Board Members present: Sarah Cosgrove, Aimie Burns, Rebecca Schwartz, Amy Jones, Adam Silverberg, Amy Bracken, Leigh Paschke, Lane Perry, Brad Ward, Lauren Tilden

Staff members present: Anthony Johnson, Cathey Chet, Brad Hallmark, Bethel Dirks

Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve the agenda by Rebecca Schwartz; seconded by Amy Jones.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approval of October 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve the October meeting minutes by Amy Bracken; seconded by Leigh Paschke.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Presentation by Karen King, Seventh Grade and Science Teacher

- Student Council: Fall festival went well; money will be used to help buy more sports equipment and for future dances. They also want to have a suggestion box and another spirit week.
- Science classes are going well, incorporating more problem-based learning, such as Power City as part of a unit on power sources.

Board Observations

- Executive board discussed 25th anniversary celebration ideas, including a board-sponsored gala in February. The gala will be held at Continuum Art and tickets will be \$100. Theme will be "Spread the Love" with wine and chocolate.
- Six-month board assessment will be held in January.

Approval of October Budget Report

Motion made to approve the October budget report by Rebecca Schwartz; seconded by Lane Perry. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Principal's Report

- Discussion of October budget report.
- Annual Fund Campaign: over \$17,000 raised, which is 23 percent of the goal. The annual fund letter will be sent out to businesses in January, and funds from the upcoming gala will be added to that number. A visual representation of the annual fund goal will be created and attached to the marquee sign.
- School Management: Audit has been sent to the state. Auditors recommend taking the \$85,000 due for the USDA loan and setting it aside in a separate account so it is not touched until the payment is made.
- Development Officer position interviews are currently happening. The development officer would deal with donors and annual funds campaign, school sponsorships, grant writing, and school expansion. Discussion of salary range for candidate.
- Discussion of unexcused absences and discipline issues and clubs currently on offer, including an Interact club starting soon.
- Compliance: BT Support monitoring will occur next school year, ESSER Funding Real Property Status Report, PRC-189 Math Tutoring Report.
- Funding: Safer Schools Grant submitted for over \$237,000, including new cameras, radios, vape detectors, Ident-a-Kid, and Gaggle subscription among other items. NC GO Grant received for \$11,500 to be used for an outdoor classroom and various gardens, including the first-grade pollinator garden. Glass Foundation and Dogwood Grants are being worked on.
- Winter Festival is December 8 from 4:30-7:30 pm.
- Discussion of upcoming changes to school policy from State Bill 49, including Parent Concerns and Appeal Procedures, Student Names, Instruction of Gender Identity, Sexual Activity, or Sexuality, Enrollment Preference for Active Military Duty Families, Enrollment of Out-of-State Students, Informing Parents of Their Rights, Parent Guide to Student Achievement, Parent Involvement, Parent Information Request, Parent Health Notification, Student Well-Being, Parent Right to Student Educational and Health Records.
- Discussion of field trip policy: As stated in the current Parent Handbook, teacher discretion will determine how many chaperones will attend a field trip. A second passenger vehicle is a future option to alleviate issues of parent drivers. A subcommittee has been formed to create a formal response to field trip complaints that will be sent to the school.

Approval of Salary for Development Officer

Motion made to approve a salary of up to \$50,000 with benefits for the development officer position by Brad Ward; seconded by Amy Jones.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approval of Change to Student Handbook

Motion made to update policy regarding possession or use of vaping devices/tobacco products/drugs/alcohol possession by Leigh Paschke; seconded by Rebecca Schwartz. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

TMCS Updates

- Marketing: Flyer created for Winter Festival and sent out.
- Growth: Lego Club started; having a music teacher come once a week to each class discussed.
- PTC: Needs for Winter Festival discussed; sign-up genius created for Pop-Up Bakery.
- Grounds: Will seek out needs for grounds in January; possible spring community day.

Other Business

- The next board meeting is January 23, 2024 at 6 p.m. The next executive board meeting is January 10, 2024.

Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn by Lauren Tilden; seconded by Amy Bracken.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm by Sarah Cosgrove.

Submitted by Bethel Dirks