

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 17, 2015 @ 4:45 pm
UMA, 426 Osceola Ave S, St. Paul, MN 55102

Attending:

- **Berray, Dina**
- **Burge, A.** (Secretary)
- Hehre, J (Treasurer)
- **Houtz, M** (Chair)
- **Jirsa, J**
- **Klancher, C**
- **Mortenson, C**
- **Sabo, M**
- Wordes, Christina (BKDA)
- Wornson, B

Welcome. The meeting was called at 4:45 p.m. with Chair M. Houtz welcoming everyone.

Approval of the minutes from the last meeting and the current Meeting Agenda. M. Sabo moved to accept the amended agenda, C.Mortenson seconded. Motion passed.

Finance Report. J.Hehre presented.

The state overpaid us for a couple months from last year, so we had to change our bank account to secure our money. The state is not going to ask for the money back, but they are going to hold back payments later. We are going to use the money to pay off our debt and save money on the interest. We upgraded our account with Western Bank to accommodate additional insurance requirements over and above FDIC requirements.

M. Sabo had questions about why the working budget is higher than the original budget. Part of the increase is due to the increase in staff. The money for the special education salaries will be reimbursed by federal funding. The concern is that we don't want to have to cut teacher salaries again this year. The financial committee has looked at this and has looked at areas where spending will be frozen--text book supplies, equipment and technology, and the Pathways.

D.Berray brought up concerns about what the specific budgets are for each Pathway. With the Pathways embedded in the core classes, dividing that money needs to be looked at at a different time.

Looking at past use, our Utilities budget is estimated high by about \$20,000. We need to make sure that snowplowing is under contracted services and not in utilities.

M.Sabo is concerned about how the past debt appears on the report due in part to the way the promissory note is accounted for. There was much discussion around this topic. We want to be out of debt, but we also want to be conservative. J. Jirsa asked for clarification of why there is a deficit. This is because of a higher salary cost and higher transportation cost.

The other issue is that there are only 8 students that actually enrolled in the 9th grade for this year. There is a concern about having such a small 9th grade, because it is affecting the size of the eighth grade classes. There is also a concern about next year for the high school when we pass on our 8th graders into high school. We know that some students are leaving for various reasons, but some are planning to be here throughout their high school career. A committee is going to be formed to look at the future of the UMA high school, consisting of parents, high school teachers, colleges representatives, etc. Barb is going to find the resource about Innovative High Schools. We need to make a realistic plan on what is necessary to make a viable high school. This committee will meet and come back to the board by the October meeting with preliminary information, and monthly check ins until the first of the year. M. Houtz motioned to establish the committee to study the viability of the high school program. J.Jirsa seconded. Motion passed.

M. Sabo motioned to accept the report. C.Klancher seconded. Motion passed.

Facilities Report. John Hehre and Barb Wornson presented.

Currently, the St. James building is being used as a day care. The owner is willing to do it for the commitment of a 5 year lease. It would be feasible for a middle school and would be close to the current site.

Building 17 at the barracks is still an option. We are waiting to hear back from the Fort.

There is also the possibility of buying some land and building something. We need to look into the financing possibilities of that. Diminium is a company who is looking at the buildings on the upper post, and we are planning to start discussions with them about what their plans are and if we can fit into them.

Director's Report. Barb Wornson presented.

- Enrollment Update--Total enrollment is 279--65 sixth grade, 74 seventh grade, 111 eighth grade, 8 ninth grade, 22 eleventh grade
- Board Training--December 5th the new board members will attend training
- Development position--Chris Mortenson would like to work on getting donations to fund a position for a development position. This person would create a development office and raise enough money in order to continue the office. The board agreed with the go ahead.
- Planning for Board Elections--We need to hold elections this year, since we are in our third year of operation. During a time when school is in session--one parent, one licensed teacher, one interested community member with a minimum of five members. Our By Laws need to be changed to reflect this. Barb will contact someone who is on retainer who can edit this for us. There was discussion around the make up of the board, and how many of those members should be teachers.
- Annual Assurances--Barb handed them out for everyone to sign
- IQS Scoreboard--was sent to the board members. It is being worked on currently.

PTO Update Amy Burge presented

The PTO had its first meeting of the school year. Ann Wilner is the Chair. Chris Olson is the secretary and Kris Simonson is continuing as treasurer. It was attended by about 20 parents of various age groups. Barb Wornson, Dina Berray and Denise Goldman presented at the meeting.

The biggest concern of the attending parents were the bus issues. Chinook Books sales have been extended by a week, because the group did not feel that the communication was clear to the parents.

All the committees need to be reformed--fundraising, extracurricular activities, communications, etc.

Adjourn: D. Berray motioned to adjourn. M. Sabo seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm