

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 14, 2016 @ 4:45 pm
UMA, 426 Osceola Ave S, St. Paul, MN 55102

Attending:

- Adler, Harry (director)
- **Berray, Dina**
- **Burge, Amy** (Secretary)
- Elverum, Amy (Dean of Students)
- Hehre, John (Treasurer)
- Hehre, Marian
- **Houtz, Marcia** (Chair)
- **Jirsa, Jason**
- **Klancher, Christy**
- **Mortenson, Chris**
- **Sabo, Martin**
- Wordes, Christina (BKDA)
- Other visitors (2)

Absent:

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

Introduction of Interim Director, Harry Adler

Shared his first impressions of the school and was introduced to the board members.

Approval of the current Meeting Agenda as amended. M. Sabo moved to approve the agenda as amended, D. Berray seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of the November Meeting Minutes--M. Sabo moved to approve the minutes for November, J. Jirsa seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of the two December Meeting Minutes--M. Sabo moved to approve the minutes for November, D. Berray seconded. Motion passed.

Parent Concerns

Amy Burge

- There was not as big of a turn out at the PTO meeting as expected, given the sudden resignation of Barb, but those who voiced their concerns talked about the following areas: Trust, Communication, Stability, and Respect.
- Could a page be added to the website with teacher wish lists and offers for physical donations? There is a wish list

Finance Report.

J.Hehre and Christine Wordes

Nothing significant to report. We seem to be on track with spending according to our budget.

A. Burge motioned to accept the financial report. M. Sabo seconded. Motion passed.

The state of Minnesota requires that there be a designated official with the authority to assign job duties to the school staff. This is called the IOWA. A motion needs to be made to identify Harry Adler, our Executive Interim Director, as our IOWA designee. D. Berray made the motion. M. Sabo seconded. Motion passed.

M.Sabo motioned to designate Harry Adler the authority to pay bills and take care of school orders. D. Berray seconded. Motion passed.

Director's Report

Amy Elverum

- Enrollment--271 ADMs (64-6th, 73-7th, 108-8th, 10-9th, 16-11th) Information sessions in January had 45 families in attendance. There is a Charter School fair on January 23rd at St. Paul College 9a-12noon.
- High School Update---Program of Study and Course Catalog has been printed and is on the UMA website. Thank you, Chris Mortenson for putting all that together. There was a meeting with current 8th grade families and 20 attended.
- Staffing
 - Harry Adler (Interim Director)
 - Kate Needleman (Office Manager--hourly to salaried position change)
 - Abbe Payton (Advancement Position)
 - Leana Stone will be out 1/8/16-4/11/16 (maternity)
 - There is a posting for a Special Ed Para and a Food Service Server
 - There is also a posting for an Office Business Manager position
 - Decisions on teacher staffing for next year will also be considered.
- The financial committee needs to start meeting to discuss the budget for next year, taking into consideration the number of new 6th graders.
- The facilities committee is going to reconvene to start looking at a new building for the 2017-18 school year as we expand.

Policy of Gender Inclusion--A gender inclusion policy needs to be adopted in order to meet the needs of all students. Heidi, our social worker, is planning to hold some staff development in order to train staff. The policy that we are looking at adopting is being used at St. Paul Public Schools. There were concerns being raised about the mixed age students sharing a restroom with someone of the opposite sex because of gender identity. We will adopt a policy that follows the Minnesota state law. We will revisit this at our February meeting.

By-Law Changes--

- A sub committee will be formed in order to discuss the changes that need to be made to our by-laws in order to be in accordance with the law.
- Our by-laws will then be on the website once they have been amended.

Board Election Update--

- The sub committee will meet and then present the details for the Board Elections.
Elections

PTO Update

- The PTO is planning another community event on February 19th--Souper Fun Night @UMA. They are opening the event to prospective families.
- The two committees that re-formed were recruitment and event planning. The Volunteer request form is still active and funds that are raised are going to the Pathways, at teacher's requests.

Public Comments--

- Christine Wordes shared that the PTO should be doing the fundraising and the school should be getting donations. This concern came from the Empty Bowls event, which raised funds and donated it to another non-profit. We still plan to have a gala, but it will need to be sponsored by PTO, not the school
- Kristenza Nelson expressed how happy she is with the school (She has a 6th grader here now), and happy that we have a home. She works for Dodge Nature Center and wanted to make sure that UMA is aware of that facility and wanted to extend an invitation for our school to build a partnership. There are scholarships available for classes and bussing. Marion Hehre is going to follow up with it.
- Another viewpoint about how the parents reacted to the change of director is described as UNCERTAINTY. Parents want reassurance and hopefully the weekly director's reports will help with that.

Adjourn: M. Sabo motioned to adjourn. C. Mortenson seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:12pm