

School Name Upper Mississippi Academy		
Charter Number		
	Board Meeting	February 16, 2021
Address 19 East Exchange St. St. Paul, MN 55105		
Authorizer Innovative Quality Systems		

Welcome, Role Call, Call to Order

By	Chad Lauber
Time	4:46 p.m.

Board Member Names	Present	Absent
Chad Lauber (Parent)	x	
Zoe Breimhorst (Parent)	x	
David Born (Parent)	x	
Genna Thompson (Teacher)	x	
Ella Kearney (Teacher)	x	
Jean Fawver (Teacher)		x
Pat Maxwell (Community)	x	
Cassie Rouse (Community)	x	

Others Present	Role	Comment
Amy Erickson	Ex-officio	
Amy Elverum	Ex-officio	
Jim Zacchini	IQS	
Mindy Wachter	CPA	
Mickey Jurewicz	Staff	Anti-racism Curriculum Project
Erin Griffin	Staff	Anti-racism Curriculum Project
Sarah Eldred	Staff	Anti-racism Curriculum Project
Susan Peters	Staff	Anti-racism Curriculum Project

In the Matter of	Minutes of Prior Meeting				
	Comment Two minor changes were noted and minutes have been amended accordingly				
Motion	To Approve	By	Maxwell	2 nd	Breimhorst
Vote	By Consensus	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Action
	x				Approved

In the Matter of	Agenda for the Current Meeting				
	Comment No additions or corrections				
Motion	To Approve	By	Maxwell	2 nd	Thompson
Vote	By Consensus	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Action
	x				Approved

In the Matter of	Public Comment				
	Comment No public comment				

In the Matter of	Strategic Planning				
	Discussion led by Chad Lauber				
<p>Comment Since the move to new facilities and other social and educational changes, the Vision and Mission Statements are outdated. Lauber recommended that a sub-committee be appointed to review and revise these statements and to formulate a new strategic plan for the School. Input from stakeholders (the authorizer, the local and broader community, students, parents, and staff) is to be solicited. A revised document is to be approved before the end of the school year. Erickson noted that staff members recognize the need for a new plan and are excited about the prospect of developing one.</p> <p>Born, Breimhorst, Maxwell, and Rouse will serve as the strategic planning committee chaired by Lauber.</p>					
Motion	To Approve	By	Born	2 nd	Breimhorst
Vote	By Consensus	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Action
	x				Approved

In the Matter of	Financial Report				
	Discussion led by Mindy Wachter				
<p>Comment Report filed on Board website. Food Services monies will be drawn down not that students are returning to the facility. No response has been received in answer to prior question about receiving a discount for prepayment of insurance premium. Maxwell requested that Fund labels and purposes be reviewed for an upcoming meeting for the purpose of consolidation and clarification. Wachter will prepare the information. Erickson and Wachter noted that performance of the cleaning service has been very good, but the company's billing service has exhibited some confusion. Efforts are being made to clarify. Maxwell raised the question of the value of paying approximately \$1000 to ensure a \$150,000 (thus far unused) line of credit. Maxwell observed that the school has an untapped resource, but with a \$1M+ "reserve," the current line is barely 10%. He speculated that if a need arose, we would either not need the \$150,000, or we would likely need a greater amount. His informal recommendation was that we seek to eliminate the \$1000 fee and/or explore obtaining a larger, <i>gratis</i> line of credit.</p>					
Motion	To Approve the report	By	Born	2 nd	Maxwell
Vote	By Consensus	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Action
	x				Approved

In the Matter of	Director's Report				
	Presented by Amy Erickson and Amy Elverum				
<p>Comment Erickson reported that anticipated enrollment of new students for 2021-22 appears satisfactory; deadline is 1st week in March, so numbers may change. PPE loan documents are being reviewed by the bank and loan is expected to be forgiven. Progress on upgrading facilities continues. Today's return to hybrid school appears to have gone well; staff and students appeared to be excited, but anxious. Update on Covid vaccinations: UMA is expected to receive another 24 (1st and 2nd vaccination) doses in the second phase of the pilot project. School leaders (UMA and elsewhere) are still experiencing considerable confusion surrounding the allocation process and priorities.</p>					
Vote	By Consensus	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Action
None required					

In the Matter of	Anti-racism Curriculum Project				
	Presented by Anti-racism Curriculum Project Team				

Comment The team was formed initially to look at anti-racism and diversity issues in the curriculum and the school, but immediately realized such work could only be undertaken effectively in the context of the school’s vision statement and strategic plan: that is to say, what are the school’s values and where does it see itself going. The team presented early modifications to the existing vision and mission statements, but did not have specific recommendations on curriculum matters, pending further direction from the board. A fruitful discussion of diversity, “community,” student and staff recruitment, and related issues. [Secretary’s note: recruitment of the Board of Directors was not, but perhaps should have been included in the discussion.]

The Team was commended for its efforts and member’s commitment to the challenge. The board expressed an interest in keeping the team engaged in the strategic planning project and looks forward to continued interaction with them.

Vote	By Consensus	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Action
None Required					

In the Matter of	Compliance
	Discussion led by Chad Lauber

Comment Lauber and Erickson noted that board members are required to undergo rather basic background checks. A form authorizing such a check is available on the Board website and should be completed and that teachers on the board have already undergone a higher-level background check. The fee of \$8.00 for the check will be covered, if desired, by the school. Members may also send a check with their authorization form.

Vote	By Consensus	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Action
None Required					

In the Matter of	Bylaws
	Discussion led by Chad Lauber

Comment Lauber presented a revised draft of the Bylaws which included clarifying language around board membership, particularly phrasing designed to clarify that members could not transfer their status; that is, a parent member who no longer has a child enrolled at UMA could not “decide” to be a community member. Membership is determined by election. Language that is not gender specific was added where needed.

The board gave its general approval and Lauber will transmit the document to the authorizer (IQS) for their legal review. The document will then be returned to the board for final approval.

Vote	By Consensus	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Action
None Required					

In the Matter of	Adjournment				
	Comment There being no further business, the Chair requested a motion for adjournment.				
Motion	To Approve	By	Born	2 nd	None required
Vote	By Consensus	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Action
	x				Approved

Adjourned	
By	Chad Lauber
Time	6:30 p.m.