

Howard Gardner MI Charter School Board of Directors Public Meeting August 18, 2015

The Howard Gardner MI Charter School (“HGMICS”) held a Board of Directors meeting on August 18, 2015. Dr. Susan Trussler called the public meeting to order at 7:05 P.M and then subsequently presided over the meeting. The HGMICS facility located at 1615 E. Elm Street, Scranton, PA was the location for the public work session and private board meeting. The following directors attended: Amy Kenton (via skype), Lou Nivert, Susan Trussler, John Ruddy, and Tim Speicher. Also in attendance were Maria Rozaieski, Pam Kobierecki, Renee Dougherty, Brent Pennington and Kim Scanlon, Esquire--Oliver, Price and Rhodes. Two public attendees were Stacey Nivert and Megan Trowbridge. Susan Trussler led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance and then took role call for board members and administrators.

Dr. Trussler, President	<u>X</u>	
Mr. Ruddy		<u>X</u>
Ms. Alperin		<u>Absent</u>
Dr. Langan		<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Nivert		<u>X</u>
Dr. Kenton		<u>X</u>
Mr. Speicher		<u>X</u>
Administration:		
Maria Rozaieski, Interim CEO/Principal (non-voting)		<u>X</u>
Pam Kobierecki, S.I.P. (non-voting)		<u>X</u>
Renee Dougherty, HR Mgr (non-voting)		<u>X</u>
Brent Pennington, Business/Tech Mgr (non-voting)		<u>X</u>
Maria Diebert, Accountant (non-voting)		<u>Absent</u>

Approval of Previous Minutes

Tim Speicher made a motion, which Lou Nivert seconded, to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2015 public meeting. No questions or discussion ensued and all the directors voted yea to carry the motion.

Financial Update

Brent Pennington provided a financial report. He stated the accounts receivable balance is currently \$461,856 and accounts payable balance is currently \$63,173. Lou Nivert made a motion, which Tim Speicher seconded, to approve Mr. Pennington's financial report. No questions or discussion ensued and all the directors voted yea to carry the motion.

School Matters and Policies

Maria Rozaieski provided an update of several school matters and school policies.

Special Education Policies

Maria Rozaieski stated that the school had reviewed and revised the special education policies. John Ruddy made a motion, which Tim Speicher seconded, to approve the revised policies. Susan Trussler made a clarifying point that the substance of the previous policies were remaining intact. The policy change was to bifurcate and reorganize the previous policies and not change its substance. No additional questions or discussion ensued and all the directors voted yea to carry the motion.

Faculty Departures and New Hires

Mrs. Rozaieski discussed the faculty new arrivals and departures. First, Amanda Conti (former teacher's aide) is to replace Amy Barbine as the 5th/6th grade instructor. Paul Biagioli replaces Michell Thomas as the 7th/8th grade instructor; and due to Amanda Conti's promotion, Karen Yevitz is the new 5th/6th grade teacher's aide. The hire for a 7th/8th grade teacher's aid is still TBD.

Lou Nivert made a motion, which Tim Speicher seconded, to approve Mrs. Rozaieski's staffing report. Susan Trussler added that HGMICS new Chinese teacher has arrived. Susan and Maria brought her, Shih-Han, to the school for a facilities tour earlier in the week and that she's scheduled to start next week. In addition, the board approved a job description for the Principal / CEO vacated by Amy Kenton and currently held on an interim basis by Maria Rozaieski. The suggested deadline for all applications 11/1/2015.

No additional questions or discussion ensued and all the directors voted yea to carry the motion.

Facilities

Mrs. Rozaieski provided an update on three facilities matters: 1) the administration renewed the cleaning contract with Bulldog Maintenance, which was the low bidder for the contract. 2) Repairs to the damaged parking lot are now underway; and 3) the administration renewed the food contract with our current contractor, Samario's Restaurant.

Parent Interest in the Lower Lot

Ms. Stacey Nivert and Ms. Megan Trowbridge represented the parents group interested in starting a Pre-K program in conjunction, not competition with HGMICS. Ms. Trowbridge stated that the parents had a plumber and architect tour the lower lot facilities. The cost to bring the facilities up to code would be cost prohibitive. However, the desire to co-exist with HGMISC still exist. Ms. Trowbridge posited a question for the board considering a relationship with the parent's organization and their efforts to start a Pre-K school. The Board deferred to Atty. Scanlon, who asked what the parents mean by relationship. Ms. Trowbridge stated that the parents would like a mutually beneficial relationship in which HGMICS would share - as examples: curriculum matters, equipment, and supplies - for the proposed pre-school. The representatives of parents group stated that they would be more than willing to compensate the school for the resources. Two discussions ensued: 1. Sharing of an HGMICS employee would probably be a violation of school policies as employees have an exclusive employment agreement with HGMICS; and 2. Physical curriculum matters could be exchanged through an outright sale but intellectual matters might have to be licensed. Tim Speicher stated that the Board is open to a relationship and willing to help.

The Board posed a question to the parent group representative about their legal status. Ms. Nivert informed the Board that the parents group has, in fact incorporated as a 501C3 entity and are currently in the process of filing federal and state applications.

Ms. Nivert asked the board what the Pennsylvania state requirements are. Attorney Scanlon answered on behalf of the board and stated that the lottery has to start at the kindergarten level the spring prior to the child's following fall matriculation into kindergarten. Attorney Scanlon agreed that the federal statutes are much broader.

At 7:40 Susan Trussler asked those in attendance if there were any other items or new business matters. When no one replied, Lou Nivert made a motion to adjourn and Susan Trussler stated the meeting was adjourned.

Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at 1615 East Elm Street, Scranton, PA.