

**Howard Gardner MI Charter School
Public Board Meeting
May 17th, 2016**

The Howard Gardner MI Charter School (“HGMICS”) held a Public Board of Directors meeting on May 17th, 2016. Dr. Susan Trussler called the public meeting to order at 7:00 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. The following directors attended: Frances Langan, Susan Trussler, Clarence Lamanna, Lou Nivert and Amy Kenton via conference line. Also in attendance were Maria Rozaieski, and Renee Dougherty. Mr. Joseph Rasmus was also invited and attended. Susan Trussler led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance and then took roll call for board members and administrators.

Dr. Trussler, President	<u>X</u>
Mr. Ruddy	<u>Absent</u>
Ms. Alperin	<u>Absent</u>
Dr. Langan	<u>X</u>
Mr. Nivert	<u>X</u>
Dr. Kenton	<u>X via conference line</u>
Mr. Lamanna	<u>X</u>

Administration:

Maria Rozaieski, Interim CEO/Principal (non-voting)	<u>X</u>
Renee Dougherty, HR Mgr (non-voting)	<u>X</u>
Brent Pennington, Business/Tech Mgr. (non-voting)	<u>X</u>

Mr. Gus Fahey also attended as the only public visitor.

Lou Nivert made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 19th, 2016 meeting and Clarence Lamanna seconded the motion. All directors voted in favor.

Brent Pennington provided a brief financial update. The 5/16 accounts payable balance is \$195,833.05 and the accounts receivable balance is \$485,679.55. Frances Langan moved to accept the financial report and Clarence Lamanna seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion of the financial report and all directors voted in favor of the motion. A draft of the 2016-17 budget was presented. Fran Langan made the motion to approve the budget draft and Lou Nivert seconded the motion.

A question was raised about the status of the amounts due from the school districts for the 2014-15 reconciliation. Maria Rozaieski and Brent Pennington reported and updated the status that as of this week, the only school that has not sent payment was the Scranton School District. Kimberly Scanlon confirmed that her office has sent two notifications to the district with no response. She said our next action would be to file a complaint in Common Pleas Court as a collection, go through formal litigation by joining the other Charter schools across the state, or to try and contact the district in a friendly manner to discuss the situation. The suggestion was to schedule a conference call or a meeting with the Superintendent of the Scranton School District and their business manager. Susan said she would check her schedule and let someone know when she would be available for the meeting to take place. Joe Rasmus commented that the Superintendents of Luzerne County met and agreed as a group not to pay charter schools.

Maria Rozaieski gave the Principal's report. The Mother's Day Tea was a huge success and was enjoyed by all. HGMICS was able to send a team of six teachers to be trained for a Student Assistant Program free of charge at NEIU 19. There is normally a fee for this training but our school was able to secure a spot for free training in order to get a team in place for the 2016-17 school year. HGMICS will be holding a Career Fair on May 20th, 2016 with at least 16 different presenters. The next Parent Forum meeting will be held on May 23rd at 6:15 in the Multi-purpose room at HGMICS. A few board members agreed attend the meeting as well as Mr. Rasmus. The Board will introduce Mr. Rasmus to the Parent Forum officers at that time. The Parent Forum has reported that they have planned a fun field day for the entire school on June 3rd and our eighth grade graduation ceremony will be held on June 7th at the Country Club of Scranton

Susan Trussler reported that she has gotten verbal commitments of employment from Joseph Rasmus for the position of CAO, and Maria Rozaieski for the position of Principal for the 2016-17 school year. Susan made a motion to hire Joseph Rasmus and Maria Rozaieski in these positions, respectively. Amy Kenton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. There were no other committee reports from the Board. The nominating committee will be meeting to review resumes that were submitted from individuals interested in filling open seats on HGMICS Board of Trustees. There are currently three seats available. Maria Rozaieski informed the Board that the real estate listing for the lower property has

expired. The realtor had suggested lowering the selling price and board members discussed the option. The consensus was to remove the property from the real estate listing and form a committee to discuss other options for the property. Susan and Lou will be heading that committee. Maria Rozaieski informed the Board that the contract from NEIU for special education services must also be renewed at this time. Clarence Lamanna made a motion to renew the contract and Lou Nivert seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Lou Nivert reported on receiving two additional quotes to having an assessment done on the condition of the building's roof. Brent Pennington suggested that we wait until August to schedule this work to be done.

Facilities report included the completion of a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment done by the PA State Police. This is an assessment done to help HGMICS improve on their safety measures at the school. We will receive a report from them in a few weeks. The school is still waiting on quotes from the insurance company to repair the retaining wall. We have gotten several quotes from independent contractors on the cost of repair. The school had to replace the expansion tank for the heating system at the cost of approximately \$3500.00. HGMICS was ordered by the local police on May 12th to put "lock-out" procedures into effect because of a domestic dispute in the neighborhood. Lackawanna county asked the school to keep students inside during a planned Gypsy Moth spraying effort taking place this week.

Laila Kane will be retiring from HGMICS as of June 8th 2016. We wish her well.

Proceeds from the golf tournament were in excess of \$15,000. Thank you to everyone that helped make this happen. The 50/50 winner received over \$4000.00. Special thanks to Ellen Yuscavage for chairing this event.

Mr. Fahey asked questions about the school lottery process and the wait list. It was explained with the help of Renee Dougherty and Maria Rozaieski.

At 7:45, no other items of business were mentioned so Susan Trussler adjourned the meeting.

Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 21st, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at 1615 East Elm Street, Scranton, PA.