

Howard Gardner MI Charter School Board of Directors Public Meeting November 17th, 2015

The Howard Gardner MI Charter School (“HGMICS”) held a Board of Directors meeting on November 17th, 2015. Dr. Susan Trussler called the public meeting to order at 7:12 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 private work session and public board meeting. The following directors attended: Amy Kenton via skype, Susan Trussler, Frances Langan and Louis Nivert. Also in attendance were Maria Rozaieski, Renee Dougherty, Brent Pennington, and Erin Brennan, Esquire--Oliver, Price and Rhodes. Megan Swan, a resident of the Scranton School District, was the lone public representative that attended the meeting. 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 (via skype)	<u>X</u>
Mr. Speicher	<u>Absent</u>

Administration:	
Maria Rozaieski, Interim CAO/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>

Approval of Previous Minutes

Louis Nivert made a motion, which Amy Kenton seconded, to approve the minutes of the October 20th, 2015 public meeting. No questions or discussion ensued and all the directors voted to carry the motion.

Financial Update

Brent Pennington provided the financial update. As of November 16th, the accounts receivable balance is \$660,255.69 and the accounts payable balance is \$163,022.06. The receivables balance is so high due to the state budget impasse. The school has begun to use the previously established line of credit, drawing \$150,000.00. The directors discussed the State of Pennsylvania budget impasse and agreed to continue to use our line of credit to minimize the disruption to families and students. A board vote was not needed to approve the financial update.

School Matters/ Policies

Maria Rozaieski reported that the Fall Bazaar, hosted by the Parent Forum on Sunday, November 8th, 2015, was a huge success. Megan Swann confirmed.

Board Items

The Board of Directors stated their intention to have a working committee meeting in addition and previous to the next board meeting to discuss plans for next year.

Susan Trussler reported that the Charter School Conference that she and Maria were supposed to attend in early November has been postponed until March of 2016 because of the budget impasse.

New Business

In early November the Board electronically approved a motion to hire Ciara Cawley as the senior classroom aide.

Public Hearing of Visitors

Megan Swann stated that she was asked to come and speak on behalf of the parents to voice some of their concerns. The Parent Forum would like to have parent representation on the Board or a committee in order to facilitate better communication. It was noted by her that there has been more communication from Maria regarding updates, but the parents would appreciate communication from the Board. Fran Langan said there would be a concerted effort to establish a Board newsletter beginning in January of 2016.

Some of the major concerns of the parents are: teacher retention and what can be done to support the teachers; the next year's Kindergarten class being much like every other public school with an increasing number of students; possibly gearing the next major fundraising to a teacher retention fund; lunch pricing and mark-up on some food items supplied by Samario's; and the lower property.

The Board and Maria agreed that teacher retention is high on the priority list and the Board and Administration will be working together on a way to achieve this goal. The Board stated that there will be discussion about the configuration of next year's Kindergarten classes and that it is not the school's intention to overcrowd the classrooms. Maria Rozaieski addressed the lunch items/menu concern stating that Samario's makes their profit on additional mark-ups on items such as water, while trying to keep the cost of a student lunch reasonable. There are a minimal number of students ordering lunch at the present time which makes it questionable whether Samario's can continue to provide the service.

At 7:50pm, with no other items of business remaining, Louis Nivert made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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