

**Howard Gardner MI Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
October 20, 2015**

The Howard Gardner MI Charter School (“HGMICS”) held a Board of Directors meeting on October 20, 2015. Dr. Susan Trussler called the public meeting to order at 7:10 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, Tim Speicher, Susan Trussler, Frances Langan and John Ruddy. Also in attendance were Maria Rozaieski, and Brent Pennington, and Erin Brennan, Esquire--Oliver, Price and Rhodes. Amy Sicinna from Keystone College was the lone public representative that attended the meeting. 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>X</u>
Mr. Nivert	<u>Absent</u>
Dr. Kenton (via skype)	<u>X</u>
Mr. Speicher	<u>X</u>
Administration:	
Maria Rozaieski, Interim CEO/Principal (non-voting)	<u>X</u>
Renee Dougherty, HR Mgr (non-voting)	<u>Absent</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 John Ruddy seconded, to approve the minutes of the September 16, 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 October 15th, the accounts receivable balance is 489,677.81 and the accounts payable balance is 171,155.43. The receivables balance is so high due to the state budget impasse. HGMICS expects a state subsidy payment in the near future. If HGMICS does not receive additional funds in the near future, the school will have to tap its line of credit with local banking institutions. The directors discussed the State of Pennsylvania budget impasse. A board vote was not needed to approve the financial update.

School Matters and Policies

Concerning school matters and policies, Maria Rozaieski informed the board about several items: 1) Letters to parents; 2.) parent night and the school store 3.) the fall bazaar. Maria Rozaieski provided a copy of the form letter sent to parents and 4.) Personnel matters. The letter informs parents of 3 year old students about the PDE ruling concerning pre-school programs at charter schools. As a result, parents of these students will have a kindergarten placement for their child if they choose to accept it. Families must complete an enrollment form to maintain their child's seat when their child reaches the appropriate age for kindergarten.

Ms. Rozaieski thought parent night went very well and was well attended. A discussion about Discovery dollars ensued. Amy Sicinna, a keystone student, asked about discovery dollars and how they work. Lastly, Ms. Rozaieski reminded the board of the personnel departure that had occurred since the September board meeting. A teacher's aide in the same grade that is certified will fill the role. So the school now has a need to fill an aide's role. Discussion ensued about advertising the role and about the rate of personnel attrition in the school.

Board Items

Susan Trussler raised the topic of a Keystone Alliance conference on November 6th and 7th in Hershey PA. The conference fee is reasonably priced for non-members at \$100. The conference provides education and training for charter school administrators and board members. The conference is scheduled to have an administrator from a charter

school in Gettysburg who has experience accounting for two schools that are separate legal but occupy the same physical space. The Gettysburg school has a pre-K and a grade school housed in one building.

Two other items were also discussed: the roof is no longer under warranty and may need to be repaired. We need to have it looked at to determine its current condition. HGMICS also had two contractors to consider the pool project. The contractors had conflicting opinions concerning the feasibility of filling and draining the ground area that was previously used as a swimming pool.

At 7:40, no other items of business were mentioned so Tim Speicher made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at 1615 East Elm Street, Scranton, PA.