

**Howard Gardner MI Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
September 15, 2015**

The Howard Gardner MI Charter School (“HGMICS”) held a Board of Directors meeting on September 15, 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, Lou Nivert, Susan Trussler, Frances Langan and John Ruddy. Also in attendance were Maria Rozaieski, Renee Dougherty, and Kim Scanlon, Esquire--Oliver, Price and Rhodes. Cindy Cox of Scranton PA 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>X</u>
Dr. Kenton	<u>X</u>
Mr. Speicher	<u>Absent</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>Absent</u>

Approval of Previous Minutes

Susan Trussler made a motion, which Amy Kenton seconded, to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2015 public meeting. No questions or discussion ensued and all the directors voted to carry the motion.

Financial Update

John Ruddy provided a financial report. He stated the accounts receivable balance is currently \$338,779.82 and accounts payable balance is currently \$54,186.65. No questions or discussion ensued. It was decided that a board vote was not needed to approve the minutes.

School Matters and Policies

Maria Rozaieski provided an update concerning the school parent handbook code of conduct. The handbook was taken down of the school's website temporarily and was recently reviewed.

Maria Rozaieski also reviewed personnel matters: First, EJ Murphy will be the 7th/8th grade teacher for social studies and 7th grade English language arts. Paul Biagioli will be the new 7th/8th grade instructor for math and 8th grade English Language arts; and due to Amanda Conti's promotion, Karen Yevitz is the new 6th/7th grade classroom aide. Olivia Patane is the new senior classroom aide. Since the previous board meeting on August 18th, Mina Ardestani accepted the position as Spanish, School Improvement Coordinator and ESL teacher. Lastly, curriculum specialist Jessica Acquilina from NEIU left for another position and Cecilia Mecca will now be doing the curriculum specialist work for the school.

Next, Maria Rozaieski informed the board that Title I funding increased from \$69,699 to \$86,654 for an improvement grant. The increase is being driven by federal monies due to our low income students. The school has worked on compliance with respect to the Title I audit and received official notification that we are in compliance.

The parent forum will have its first meeting on 9/21 at 6:15 pm. Ms. Cindy Cox (in attendance) is the group's Vice President. In addition, "back to school" night is Thursday 9/17 for students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade and Thursday 9/24 for students in 3rd through 8th grade. The event is split into 2 different nights to accommodate the volume of people that attend.

On Wednesday September 16th a team building event will be held for students at Goose Pond. It is comprised of group activities for 7th and 8th grade students. It helps build trust and team building among the classmates.

Our outdoor education program for the fall is scheduled for September 13th through October 2nd.

Board Items

Susan Trussler mentioned the Scranton Time's website that does not have a dedicated area for charter schools. It only has space set aside for public and private schools. Attendees discussed media publicity and how much additional publicity could help the school.

Board Items

Maria Rozaieski provided a report concerning the completion of the parking lot repair. Lou Nivert stated that the school needs to have the roof inspected. The current warranty has expired. Maria Rozaieski stated that there currently is a leak in the girl's bathroom outside the gym area that is being investigated.

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

Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at 1615 East Elm Street, Scranton, PA.