

Howard Gardner MI Charter School
Public Board Meeting
May 16th, 2017

The Howard Gardner MI Charter School (HGMICS) held a Public Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. Dr. Susan Trussler called the public meeting to order at 7:09 PM 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: John Ezbiansky, Stephanie Westington, Dr. Susan Trussler, Dr. Frances Langan, Laila Kane, Louis Nivert and Dr. Clarence Lamanna. Also in attendance were Maria Rozaieski, school

Principal and Renee Dougherty, HR Mgr. There were also several public visitors in attendance.

Susan Trussler led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance and then took roll call for the board members and administrators.

Directors

Dr. Susan Trussler, President	X
Dr. Frances Langan, Vice President	X
Dr. John Ruddy	Absent
Mr. John Ezbiansky	X
Ms. Laila Kane	X
Dr. Amy Kenton	Absent
Dr. Clarence Lamanna	X
Mr. Lou Nivert	X
Ms. Stephanie Westington	X

Administration

Maria Rozaieski, Principal (non –voting)	X
Renee Dougherty, HR Mgr (non-voting)	X

Michael O'Brien, Attorney at law from Oliver Price and Rhodes, attended the meeting on behalf of Kimberly Scanlon. Atty. Scanlon is currently on maternity leave.

At the outset, the agenda was amended to include two items: "Cross Country" was listed under School Matters/Policies and "Resignation of Herman Little" was added under Personnel.

Members of the public were in attendance and were permitted to ask questions on items listed on this agenda during the First Public Hearing.

First Public Hearing on Agenda Items only:

Visitors wanting to speak were asked to state their name and school district of residence.

Pamela Kobierecki, Mid-Valley School District; Michael Luciani, Scranton School District;

Jill Thomas, Scranton School District; Mary Beth O'Connor, North Pocono School District voiced that they had comments/questions about agenda items. Others in attendance were Diane Lane and Herman Little.

The agenda item each person wanted to speak about was the resignation of coach Herman Little. Each person was given ample time to express their personal views on the matter. Points made included that the students think of Coach Little as a major influence in their lives, he is a man of good character, that he was a fantastic coach, there was an amazing (positive) difference compared with what some had experienced at other schools, and his resignation, if accepted, should be done with a heavy heart. There were multiple requests for specific details that led to the resignation. Legal counsel responded each time stating that this is a personnel matter that cannot be discussed in public.

Additional comments from Pam Kobierecki, Mike Luciani, Jill Thomas, and Mary Beth O'Connor thanked Coach Little for his many years of service at HGMICS.

Minutes:

Board members discussed the minutes from the April 18th, 2017 Public Board meeting. The draft April minutes had been presented with an incorrect date at the top. A correction was made. A motion was made by Laila Kane and seconded by Clarence Lamanna to approve the minutes. There was no further discussion and all directors voted in favor of approving the April minutes.

Financials:

The Board reviewed the financial statement prepared by Charter Choices for the period ending April 30, 2017. In brief, total revenues to date are \$2,426,807 and total expenditures are \$1,918,436. A more detailed account of these items is included on the attached sheet. Charter Choices also created a revised budget for 2016-2017. The Board suggested that they would like a presentation of the new budget from them at the next meeting. Frances Langan made a motion to approve the financial report. Louis Nivert seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the financial report.

School Matters/Policies:

Maria Rozaieski reported on several happenings throughout the school. Jade Volchoff organized a career fair for May 19th. A variety of volunteers will come to the school and explain their careers to students. The Taiwanese government has approved our grant proposal (in conjunction with the University of Scranton) to host a Mandarin teacher for next year, and therefore the Mandarin Program will be continuing at HGMICS. Approximately twenty applications were reviewed by a selection committee that included Drs. Trussler and Pang-White who wrote the grant, Maria Rozaieski (Principal), and Ms Allison Lai and Ms Shi Han Wang, both of whom have taught Mandarin at the school and the University. Five finalists were selected and interviewed via Skype. The top three candidates were rank ordered and the

recommendation forwarded to Taiwan's Ministry of Education for final approval.

Our outdoor education weeks were underway during the first weeks of May. Students utilized the outdoor areas around the school, Mountain Lake and Nay Aug Park. HGMICS is holding its first Grandparents' Day on May 26th. This group was founded by a small group of grandparents that want to help make a difference for the students at HGMICS. The Parent Forum is planning a fun-filled Field Day for June 2nd and are still looking for volunteers to help. Graduation for 8th grade students is June 6th, The Cross Country team competed in the All Schools Event on May 13th. The girls and boys varsity teams both placed second.

Board Items:

The Strategic Planning Committee received two proposals today from consultants proposing to assist in the strategic planning process. They are not considered mutually exclusive due to different timing and approaches.

Facilities:

Previously authorized roof maintenance is being scheduled and duct cleaning is almost complete.

Personnel:

The school is still looking for an IT person, 3rd/4th grade teacher, a 3rd/4th classroom aide, and two part-time lunch aides for next year. These positions have been posted on our school website and now will be advertized in the newspaper.

Herman Little, part-time physical education teacher has resigned. Motion to accept the resignation of Coach Herman Little was made by Susan Trussler and seconded by Louis Nivert. All were in favor of accepting the resignation.

Other Items:

The HGMICS annual golf tournament has been rescheduled to May 27th, 2017 because of inclement weather. 50/50 tickets are still available.

Second Public Hearing of Visitors to any school related topics.

The public visitors in attendance raised a number of questions relating to Herman Little's resignation. Attorney O'Brien stated that Herman Little resigned his position on May 2nd, 2017 and that there was no adverse action taken by the school. He reiterated that this is a personnel issue and as such, it cannot be discussed and that it would not be appropriate to have a heated discussion about this topic. Questions concerning the end of the Cross Country team season were also raised. The main focus being a banquet that is usually held at the school. Concerns from the parents include that too many people would be attending to continue having it at the school. Discussion between parents and administration will continue about the location of the banquet and a decision reached by the beginning of next week. Additional questions and comments from the public concerned the school's policies and procedures, the faculty hiring process, the existence of an employee handbook and how to request a copy, the teacher

evaluation process, the need for an athletic director, duties and responsibilities of the Human Resources and Principal positions, and praise for the school for academics.

Responses came from Attorney O'Brien and Board members on each point. Mike O'Brien stated that anyone can submit a right-to-know request to the school for public documents and if there is a public document of record we can provide them with that information.

Herman Little asked to speak. He thanked the school for 10 years of employment. The Board thanked him for his service to the school.

With no further New Business raised, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:30pm by Clarence Lamanna and seconded by Louis Nivert .

The next Public Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 7pm.

Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence CS
Budget vs. Actual Report - Eleven Months Ending May 2017
8.3% of Fiscal Year Remaining

	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>July-May Activity</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>% Remaining</u>
Local Revenue				
1. Per Pupil Tuition	\$2,720,000	\$2,524,191	\$195,809	7.2%
2. Food Service	\$19,500	\$18,748	\$752	3.9%
3. Miscellaneous	\$40,000	\$70,229	(\$30,229)	-75.6%
State Revenue				
4. Health Reimb.	\$3,200	\$0	\$3,200	100.0%
5. Ready To Learn Block Grant	\$14,498	\$14,498	\$0	0.0%
Federal Revenue				
6. Title I&II, SIG, IDEA	\$144,433	\$89,371	\$55,062	38.1%
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$2,941,631</u>	<u>\$2,717,038</u>	<u>\$224,593</u>	<u>7.6%</u>
Salaries & Benefits				
7. Inst. Salaries	\$853,264	\$793,532	\$59,732	7.0%
8. Inst. Benefits	\$400,000	\$360,689	\$39,311	9.8%
9. Support Salaries	\$325,000	\$298,297	\$26,703	8.2%
10. Support Benefits	\$170,000	\$156,116	\$13,884	8.2%
Total Salaries & Benefits	<u>\$1,748,264</u>	<u>\$1,608,634</u>	<u>\$139,630</u>	<u>8.0%</u>
Purchased Services				
11. Inst. Services	\$100,000	\$51,985	\$48,015	48.0%
12. Support Services	\$175,000	\$137,947	\$37,053	21.2%
13. Facility Services	\$169,780	\$134,776	\$35,004	20.6%
14. Debt Service	\$106,000	\$96,060	\$9,940	9.4%
Total Purchased Services	<u>\$550,780</u>	<u>\$420,768</u>	<u>\$130,012</u>	<u>23.6%</u>
Supplies & Materials				
15. Inst. Supplies & Mat.	\$70,000	\$36,611	\$33,389	47.7%
16. Support Supplies & Mat.	\$30,000	\$28,980	\$1,020	3.4%
17. Facility Supplies & Mat.	\$10,000	\$7,101	\$2,899	29.0%
Total Supplies & Materials	<u>\$110,000</u>	<u>\$72,692</u>	<u>\$37,308</u>	<u>33.9%</u>
18. Student Activities	<u>\$22,000</u>	<u>\$19,420</u>	<u>\$2,580</u>	<u>11.7%</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$2,431,044</u>	<u>\$2,121,514</u>	<u>\$309,530</u>	<u>12.7%</u>
NET INCOME (DEFICIT)	<u><u>\$510,587</u></u>	<u><u>\$595,524</u></u>		