



First State Montessori Academy

Public Session Board Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017

Call to Order: 6:01 p.m.

Adjournment: 7:20 p.m.

Location: First State Montessori Academy Carousel Room

Present: Angela Angeny, Kyara Beck, Beth Carter, Gina Castelli, Ryan Connell, Jed Donahue, Meala Duckworth, Courtney Fox, Chanda Gilmore, Yvonne Nass, Aubria Nance Phillips, Janine Salomone, DaWayne Sims

Regrets: Zeke Allinson, Karen Grandell, Erin Carroll

Guest: Liz Madden, FSMA Director of Education

Review of June 22, 2017 meeting minutes

Change Kyara's last name to Beck. Grammar error in second paragraph of Governance Committee report. All in favor. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

The CBOC and Finance Committee diligently went through the yearend report and no surprises were noted. They will begin work on the 2017-18 academic year budget. Jed asked if there were any new financial concerns that could be hurdle for the school. Courtney answered that the accountant put together a list of variables and risks that helped FSMA project for any potential issues. Ryan asked if schools have a better understanding of what state budget changes are coming. DaWayne answered that it is unknown at this point. Jed motioned to accept the finance web narrative. Beth seconded. Motion passed.

Governance Committee

Discussion ensued around committee's recommendation of a parent orientation during "Meet the Teacher" night. Questions focused on orientation purpose and need. Yvonne noted that night belongs to the school, as it is the first contact for students and parents with teachers. The night is planned carefully and Open House may be a better venue for it. Committee is encouraged to follow-up with FSMA administration about it

Development Committee

Committee has started planning activities for 2017-18. Focus will be around funding for the renovating the upper school, the annual plan and the capital campaign. Jed requested that each board member send personalized fundraising notes to individuals or businesses they have relationships with to spread the message of FSMA and how they can potentially help.

Smarter Balance School Data Presentation

Courtney and Liz presented the scores from Smarter Balance. Both stressed the need not to get buried in the numbers and remember that each data point represents a child with a story and a journey. The pair highlighted the following points:

- FSMA made strong gains in all areas.
- Compared to last year, average grade level increase was 12% with gains as much as 23%.
- ELA scores higher than math scores, which is a national and statewide trend.
- Saw very strong math scores from FSMA students with previous Montessori education.
- Majority of sixth graders are At/Near the ELA sub-component standards.
- While there is a state downward trend in 5/6 grade math, FSMA showed upward trend.
- Results show that the children who have been at FSMA for past 3 years had a higher likelihood of meeting or exceeding the state standard in ELA and math.

Old Business

The Executive Committee established board's Vision Statement and encouraged committees to develop programming and duties around it. Committee requested more information from the Governance Committee regarding establishing a board budget line item and encouraged them to work with the Finance Committee to examine procedures for it.

DaWayne motioned to adjourn. Janine seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Chanda Gilmore, Secretary