

# MUSKEGON HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SYSTEM

Board of Directors Special Meeting  
October 17th, 2023  
6:00 p.m.  
2441 Sanford Street  
Muskegon Heights, MI 49444

## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System, 2441 Sanford Street, Muskegon Heights, Michigan, was called to order by Leslie Kitchen-Slater at 6:01 p.m.

### II. ROLL CALL

#### BOARD MEMBERS:

Leslie Slater, President; Hillery Ross-Furse, Secretary; J.J Lewis, Trustee, Debra Bradford, Trustee (arrived 6:17 p.m.)

#### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

#### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Superintendent Reedell Holmes

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of closed session for the purpose of negotiation strategy discussion.

Lewis MOVED and Ross-Furse SECONDED the adoption of the resolution.

ROLL CALL: Slater-Yes Ross-Furse-Absent Lewis-Yes Bradford-Absent

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023 and September 26, 2023 Special Meetings.

Ross-Furse MOVED and Slater SECONDED the adoption of the resolution.

ROLL CALL: Slater-Yes Ross-Furse-Abstain Lewis-Yes Bradford-Absent

**V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES**

The superintendent provided updates to the Board on events and activities of the district and answered questions from the Board.

**VI. SCHOOL LEADER REPORTS**

Principals presented brief building updates for the Board and also presented students of the month from each building to be recognized for their work and accomplishments in school.

**VII. CLOSED SESSION**

Board President Slater was advised by the Board attorneys that a closed session was not necessary. The Board did not go into closed session..

**VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Financial Update – A financial update for the district was provided by Mark Graham
- Strategic Planning – One proposal has been received for strategic planning. Superintendent holmes is working to get additional proposals
- HR Committee and Hiring Practices – President Slater requested an HR committee be put into place with Board representation to ensure hiring practices are in place to get the best staff possible in the district. The Board agreed that this would be a good idea to have in place.
- Vendor Services Reviewed by Superintendent – President Slater requested that a protocol is in place for the superintendent to provide cost analysis between vendor services or work being done in house by MHPSAS staff. There should also be something in place to make sure vendors are vetted to ensure there is diversity, equity and inclusion in their practices and to get quotes for comparison of prices and services. The Board wants to make sure that vendors are truly providing services that are outlined in their contracts.
- Grant Dollars Aligned to School Improvement Plan and Partnership Agreement – The Board wants to ensure that grants are used for school improvement and to meet the requirements of the partnership agreement that is in place.

- Board Meeting Locations – Mr. Lewis has requested that some of the BOD meetings are held in various buildings around the district and to amend the BOD meeting calendar to have meetings held at a different location every other month. Board members agreed this would be a nice change to the meeting calendar.
- New Service Provider – Discussion on vendor proposals and presentations to the Board. Superintendent Holmes shared clarification on vendor cost structures in their proposals. He also shared information from vendors to clarify questions the Board had after the vendor presentations. None of the vendors had any existing lawsuits in place in regards to the services they provide. Mr. Lewis asked about special education and how that would be handled with the different providers, which is currently being handled by Global Psychological.
- Special Education Services – Anthony Pendleton Provided a special education update to the Board including staffing, budget, and key performance indicators. President Slater asked about the corrective action plans with the state. Mr. Pendleton reported that the plans are in place and documentation has been submitted to the state with the hope that items will be closed by the state next month.

## IX. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Call for Nomination of Vice President of the Board of Directors.

Slater MOVED and Ross-Furse SECONDED to nominate and elect JJ Lewis as Vice President and Treasurer.

Discussion: Ms Bradford wants to learn more about responsibilities before taking on a Board chair role.

ROLL CALL: Slater-Yes Ross-Furse-Yes Lewis-Yes Bradford-Abstain

### B. Call for Nomination of Treasurer of the Board of Directors.

JJ Lewis has been approved to fill the role of Vice President and Treasurer.

### C. Approve the creation of a Board HR committee to review district policies on hiring practices.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make the resolution to approve the creation of a Board HR committee to review district policies on hiring practices.

Lewis MOVED and Ross-Furse SECONDED the adoption of the resolution.

ROLL CALL: Slater-Yes Ross-Furse-Yes Lewis-Yes Bradford-Yes

- D. **Approve the final vendor for a new service provider and allow the superintendent and attorneys to begin negotiating a contract.**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make the resolution to approve the final vendor for a new service provider and allow the superintendent and attorneys to begin negotiating a contract.

Lewis MOVED to approve Square 1 Strategy Group as the new service provider and Ross-Furse SECONDED the adoption of the resolution.

Discussion: Mr. Lewis asked about rationale for the motion, President Slater expressed that having a company in Michigan was part of the rationale, along with cost effectiveness. Mr. Lewis thought that Yes, Inc. would be the more cost effective provider. Mr. Lewis stated that the contract needed to be very thorough with any vendor to make sure the district is protected.

ROLL CALL: Slater-Yes Ross-Furse-Yes Lewis-No Bradford-Yes

- E. **Approve payment of invoices to MAISD for services provided in the amount of \$109,371.70, per the terms in the temporary service provider agreement.**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make the resolution to approve payment of invoices to MAISD for services provided in the amount of \$109,371.70, per the terms in the temporary service provider agreement.

Ross-Furse MOVED and Lewis SECONDED the adoption of the resolution.

ROLL CALL: Slater-Yes Ross-Furse-Yes Lewis-Yes Bradford-Yes

- F. **Approve the contract with the National Charter Schools Institute for Board Policy and Administrative Guidelines updates in the amount of \$3,450.00, and for the Superintendent evaluation tool, training and support in the amount of \$5,500.00.**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make the resolution to approve the contract with the National Charter Schools Institute for Board Policy and Administrative Guidelines updates in the amount of \$3,450.00, and for the Superintendent evaluation tool, training and support in the amount of \$5,500.00.

Lewis MOVED and Ross-Furse SECONDED the adoption of the resolution.

ROLL CALL: Slater-Yes Ross-Furse-Yes Lewis-Yes Bradford-Yes

- G. Approve the Parent and Student Code of Conduct for MHA, MLK, and Edgewood.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make the resolution to approve the Parent and Student Code of Conduct for MHA, MLK, and Edgewood.

Bradford MOVED and Lewis SECONDED the adoption of the resolution.

ROLL CALL: Slater-Yes Ross-Furse-Yes Lewis-Yes Bradford-Yes

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Mr. Kirksey, NAACP chair in Muskegon county, offered assistance that could be provided to help the district to help with the education of students in MHPSAS.

**XI. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Lewis - Uplifting to celebrate students of the month, looking forward to doing this in school buildings later in the year potentially. Honored to be selected to fill officer positions for the Board.
- Bradford – Excited to see success stories about our students that helps show a positive story for the district
- Ross-Furse – Wonderful meeting to see students and parents in attendance and celebrating our students
- Slater – Agreed that having the recognition of students is positive, and we are making strides toward accomplishing good things for the district. My spirit is high after this meeting. We have made missteps, but it is important that we continue to get up and continue to move forward.

**XII. NEXT MEETING**

- Special meeting of the Board of Directors on Tuesday, October 26th at 6:00 p.m. to finalize a contract for a new service provider and to approve a contract with Global Psychological for special education services.

XI. **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hillery Rose-Furse, Secretary