

MUSKEGON HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SYSTEM

Board of Directors Special Meeting

September 12th, 2023

5:00 p.m.

2441 Sanford Street

Muskegon Heights, MI 49444

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Board Meeting, Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System, 2441 Sanford Street, Muskegon Heights, Michigan, was called to order by Leslie Slater at 6:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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 as presented.

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

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

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. 22-23 Financial Audit - Proposal from Gabridge & Co is high due to the late nature of getting this completed. Staff will be working nights and weekends to make sure the audit gets completed by November 1st. If this is not completed it

will impact state aid for the district. Leslie Slater asked about reference checks, and requested these be provided to the Board.

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve the proposal for the 22-23 financial audit from Gabridge & Co in the amount not to exceed \$39,800.00.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to approve the Approve the proposal for the 22-23 financial audit from Gabridge & Co in the amount not to exceed \$39,800.00.

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

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

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Cassandra Kitchen - Welcomed the new Board members and expressed hope that they would be able to complete their terms before being removed for having their own thoughts.
- Terry Cooper - The school environment has changed and is calm and running well. We need to see more parents at our Board meetings. Ms. Ellis is working to get more kids to the CTC. It is time to move forward as we have a lot of work to do. Give the superintendent and his staff a chance.
- Reuben Miles Crosby - We have people who don't care about the proper paperwork. You must learn applicable law. The meetings for the last month have been out of order. Wondered if JJ was Mr. Lewis' legal name as he was sworn in. Questioned if the Board understood the color of law.
- Jerry Riley - If relationships are broken, this has to be restored before we can move forward. Board has to restore trust, which happens through communication. Communicate and respond to the community when concerns are expressed.
- Quintina Wallace - Questioned the school curriculum and other options. She works in the lower level school and doesn't see curriculum present in classrooms. What are we going to use? Is SFA being used? They don't even have copy paper in the buildings.
- Board member Debra Bradford called for a recess and made a motion, but there was no second. Public comment continued.

- Katie Kapteyn - I was a teacher here before and used SFA. Did money get approved to continue? Wondered what else was being used for curriculum in the district. She spoke at the State Board of Education meeting this afternoon about concerns for the district. Do students have enough books? Computers? The Open Meetings Act continues to come up here and at other Board meetings that don't seem to be followed.
- Tamieko Simmons - How long has school been going on and we don't have a curriculum in place?
- Jalen Burt - Mr. Fox has seen all the money that has gone in and out. How does Meta24 fit, but SFA does? If you don't implement Meta24 you are failing the kids.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Lewis - Appreciate the comments and concerns expressed
- Ross-Furse - Taking in everybodys' concerns and appreciate your voice. Please don't insult my intelligence. I am fighting for the community, both for kids and adults. I am a Heights graduate and know the current struggle. If Mr. Fox is reinstated, that is ok, and I am praying for him. We need to work together. We can't take one another down, and need to come together.
- Slater - In a tough spot for many reasons. I am also a Heights graduate and know this is a strong community. A house divided amongst itself won't stand. I don't know the future of Mr. Fox and I don't determine that. We don't determine that. Many hands make light work. Let's do the work together.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

A. Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 19th, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Motion to adjourn by Ross-Furse and SECONDED by Bradford at 7:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Hillery Rose-Furse, Secretary

