

# **MUSKEGON HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SYSTEM**

Board of Directors Meeting  
August 15, 2023  
6:00 p.m.  
2441 Sanford Street  
Muskegon Heights, MI 49444

## **OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Board Meeting, Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System, 2441 Sanford Street, Muskegon Heights, Michigan, was called to order by Leslie Slater at 6:04 p.m.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

Leslie Slater, President; David Fox, Vice President & Treasurer; Hillery Ross-Furse, Secretary; J.J Lewis, Trustee; Debra Bradford, Trustee (6:11 pm)

#### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:** Superintendent Reedell Holmes

### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Superintendent Holmes requested an addition to the agenda to hire Ciara Nash-McGee as the MHA registrar. Mr. Fox requested additional information on this action item.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

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

Discussion on purpose of amending the agenda, and Mr. Fox requested additional information about the additional action item.

ROLL CALL: Slater-Yes Fox-No Ross-Furse-Yes Lewis-Yes Bradford-Not Present

#### **IV. CLOSED SESSION**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of attorney client privileged information.

Fox MOVED and Ross-Furse SECONDED the adoption of the resolution

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to come out of closed session and return to open session.

Fox MOVED and Ross-Furse SECONDED the adoption of the resolution

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

New Board Members Debra Bradford and J.J. Lewis was welcomed to the Board by President Slater, and each member introduced themselves.

#### **V. COMPLIANCE REPORT - No Report**

#### **VI. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES**

Superintendent Holmes provided an update on enrollment numbers (614 enrolled currently), back-to-school plans, and work happening to prepare for the new school year with the theme of “soaring”. Professional development is planned for the week of August 21-25. A back to school bash is scheduled for August 24th with several special guests, 12:00-4:00 p.m., and open house in all buildings will be held on August 25th 2:00-4:00 p.m. Mr. Holmes will be addressing all staff in the MHA auditorium, welcoming them back on August 21st.

Mr. Fox questioned the need for professional development with SFA. Support staff at Edgewood and MLK would get 8 days of training during the school year, and leaders would be obligated to attend the SFA conference in Nashville.

#### **VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Outstanding vendor invoices - Superintendent Holmes expressed concern for a number of invoices that have not been paid by the academy and that he would be getting them to the ISD to be processed.
- B. Grounds maintenance contract - Mr. Dye shared information on work he has been doing for grounds work at the district. The Board requested he provide a contract for consideration at the next Board meeting for his future work.

- C. Meta 24 contract - Discussion on Meta 24 fitting into the district's existing programming. Mr. Prince revised budget numbers to fit into the budget in a mtg on 8/14. Ms. Slater suggested this be added to the partnership agreement with MDE. Need to highlight the benefits to our students.

Ms. Slater commented that this school year is critical in how we move forward as a district and in this community, and that we do not need to abandon SFA, but need staff trained in curriculum that will be used.

Mr. Fox stated that students still have the option to do traditional education classes and the CTC. Meta 24 is not the end all and be all. He expressed that options need to be open with the way the world is going and not just sit behind laptops hoping somebody teaches them.

Ms. Slater stated that we must be creative and believe we should go out and get resources that will come in and teach our students things that will assist them in life.

A document was shared with the Board, which concerned Attorney Delaporte as it was an older version of a letter and was attorney client privileged information. Another version of this document was presented to the Board at a later date, that addressed concerns of any possible violations of state law.

Mr. Fox questioned who provided the copies to the Board.

- D. Service provider RFP's - Copies of the service provider RFP responses were given to Board members to review, and a future work session will need to be planned to work toward a decision on a service provider to begin in November.

The Globla Psychological response to the RFP was only for special education services. The current MAISD contract with Global Psychological can be extended through October as the Board works toward a decision on a new service provider, which may also include special education services. Mr. Fox suggested the Global Psychological contract be tabled for further attorney review and Board review.

Ms. Slater encourages the Board to move quickly and diligently, which may require some special Board meetings to make a decision. Board members need to read through the RFP's for further discussion.

- E. MHPSAS Business Manager - A copy of the MAISD contract for business services was provided to the Board for review. The Board needs to decide if they would like to enter into an agreement with the ISD or hire their own business

manager. Currently MAISD is doing business services for the district. The position has been posted, with minimal qualified applicants so far.

Attorney Delaporte suggested the position would pay between \$85,000-\$95,000 without Benefits. Mr. Lindquist suggested that a 30 hour per week person without benefits through MAISD was estimated at approximately \$68,000 and with benefits it would go up to approximately \$120,000. Ms. Slater suggested that the new service provider may provide a business manager as part of their service, and the position salary/benefits may depend on the new provider.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Motion to Approve the contract with Global Psychological in the amount not to exceed \$1.4 million to provide complete special education services for the Academy in the 23-24 school year**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to approve the contract with Global Psychological in the amount not to exceed \$1.4 million to provide complete special education services for the Academy in the 23-24 school year.

Lewis MOVED and Fox SECONDED to table this motion until the next meeting so the Board has time to review and ask questions, and the legal team can review.

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

### **B. Motion to Approve the replacement of the pool heater by Hurst Mechanical in the amount of \$34,520.00**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to approve the replacement of the pool heater by Hurst Mechanical in the amount of \$34,520.00.

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

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

### **C. Motion to Approve the employment of the following personnel**

Discussion on Board role of approving positions or people to fill the positions. Board role is to approve new positions for the district, and the superintendent

hires people to fill those positions. The only person the Board hires is the superintendent.

The Board also discussed hiring people through MAISD and Edustaff. Anybody hired by the Board directly would be required to be in the state retirement system as well as qualify for district benefits. The Board is only responsible to hire the superintendent and any other hires to fill approved roles should be done through the third party contractor.

Approval of employing personnel was removed from the agenda.

**D. Motion to Approve the following new positions**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to approve the following new positions:

**1. Kenya Crockett, Director of Compliance and State & Federal Programs**

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

Further discussion requested by Mr. Fox

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

**2. Brenda Rybacki, Edgewood Principal**

Lewis MOVED and Ross-Furse SECONDED the adoption of the Resolution for Brenda Rybacki.

Further discussion. Mrs. Rybacki asked to approach the Board and shared information about her background and work toward certification.

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

**3. Kadeshia Overstreet, Executive Assistant**

Lewis MOVED and Bradford SECONDED the adoption of the Resolution for Kadeshia Overstreet.

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

Bradford-Yes

**IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to approve retroactive pay as of August 7, 2023 for the following:

- Kenya Crockett
- Brenda Rybacki
- Kadeshia Overstreet

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

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

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT** - None.

**X. COMMENTS FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Mr. Lewis shared he is looking forward to serving the community, and will use his prior charter school experience to do good things for the district.
- Ms. Ross-Furse introduced herself as a new Board member and thanked Ms. Rybacki for sharing her story.
- Mr. Fox encouraged the community to ask questions and be informed of what is going on. He reiterated that we have a real fight on our hands and that he is hopeful the new board members are in it for the right reason.
- Ms. Slater shared we are all in this together and have to work together to make this a great year. There is a long road ahead for improving the district for children and there are strength in numbers.

**XI. NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

Ross MOVED and Lewis SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hillery Ross-Furse, Secretary