

MUSKEGON HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SYSTEM

Board of Directors Special Meeting
November 21st, 2023
6:00 p.m.
2441 Sanford Street
Muskegon Heights, MI 49444

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS - DRAFT

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 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS:

Leslie Slater, President; J.J Lewis, Vice President & Treasurer; Hillery Ross-Furse, Secretary; Debra Bradford, Trustee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Superintendent Reedell Holmes

III. 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 November 8, 2023 Special Meeting, and the October 30th, 2023 Special Meeting.

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

Discussion: October 17th minutes not available to be approved yet. Secretary Ross is working on having this available for the next meeting to approve.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to approve the amended agenda to include two additional action items for MAISD invoices and strategic plan proposals.

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

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

V. **22-23 School Year Financial Audit**

Joe Verlin from Gabridge and Company provided a report on the 22-23 school year financial audit. During his review he commended the work Mark Graham has done to assist in the audit process as well as the MAISD business office staff.

VI. **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Mark Graham provided a financial update including bank reconciliation, profit/loss statement, and check register for the month of October.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to approve the financial statements for October as presented..

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

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

VII. **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES**

Board policy updates have been provided for the Board from the National Charter Schools Institute for review and action at the December meeting. NCSI is also working on the superintendent evaluation process

SafeSchools compliance training modules are being utilized to train staff in order for the district to be compliant with our insurance carrier.

Working on making PowerSchool information available to parents, and allow for notifications on information concerning their students. A new behavior suite will be rolled out in December.

A new website design will be launched in December.

Nine teachers have applied for the West Michigan Teacher Collaborative. The WMTC will now go through an interview and vetting process for all possible candidates to the program.

MHA is moving toward a new block schedule.

Will be using a new truancy tracker starting on November 30th. This new tool will allow the district to address truancy issues. Working with the county truancy coordinator to follow established truancy processes in the county.

We have received a grant for McKinney-Vento (homeless) to help us address the needs of our students who are identified as homeless, as well as the 26g grant for after school programming for tutoring.

Have received the 26g grant for after school programming for tutoring

The roof repair at MLK will begin on December 4th.

VIII. **SCHOOL LEADER REPORTS**

Principals presented quarterly data reports to the Board, sharing information on NWEA benchmark testing in reading and math, attendance data and behavioral data, as well as curriculum and intervention work that is in place.

IX. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Strategic Planning

- Three proposals have been received for facilitating a strategic planning service for the district. Proposals were from MASB, Provision and Friday. Ms. Gulley with Provision helped to facilitate the October Board retreat, and was asked to speak to the Board about her strategic planning proposal. She shared information about herself, her services and her proposal. Strategic planning work will be covered through 21n partnership funding. Ms. Ross-Furse and Mr. Lewis expressed interest in hearing from the other two vendors as well in order to make a good decision for strategic planning. It was requested that all proposals are shared with the Board and to have the vendors present to the Board at the December meeting so the Board can make a decision on how to move forward.

B. Updated Board Policies

- Revisions to Board policies were shared for review. These revisions were done by the National Charter Schools Institute.

C. 31aa Safety and Security Funding

- Approximately \$107,000 are available in state grant funding for student safety and mental wellness. The current plan is to utilize funding for additional security for building entry along with a nurse in the district and a 0.5 counselor position. Ms. Ross-furse agreed that additional mental health support is very important for students, and support for addressing issues students may have outside of school that is in their way of learning. Mr. Lewis cautioned to be mindful of potential one time funding for positions. It is important to have a sustainability plan for personnel. Public Comment is requested for use of the 31aa funding.

X. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Hickman spoke to the importance of added social and emotional support for students on top of additional building safety, and good use of the 31aa funds.

Mr. Gomez suggested investigating the use of Hackley Community Care to fill a nursing position, or other needed positions, for the district. Other districts offer teen health centers and some services for students through this organization.

Mr. Meade stated that Muskegon Public does have health clinics in schools, but they are not always open five days per week. Recommend looking at Hackley Community Care or Muskegon Family Care to see what types of services could be obtained for the district, and other potential funding sources to afford the services we need in the district. Mr. Meade also expressed excitement for the grants he has been receiving to help with the music needs in his classroom and for his own professional growth.

Mr. Cooper stated that Healthwest used to have a presence at MHA and in the district, but that service has been removed. It is smart to use community organizations to help with some of the needs. A nurse would be very helpful in the district. Mr. Cooper also expressed a need to have added security in the buildings. Our students also are in need of vision testing, and water bottles to help them stay hydrated.

XI. **ACTION ITEMS**

- A. **Approve revised 2023-24 Board of Director Meeting Schedule, with revised meeting locations for January, March and May.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make the resolution to approve revised 2023-24 Board of Education Meeting Schedule, with revised meeting locations for January, March and May.

Lewis MOVED and Bradford SECONDED the adoption of the resolution.

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

B. Approve R and R Landscape Supply for snow removal service for the district in the 23-24 school year in the amount of \$26,500.00.

The Board requested to table this action item to gain further information on the bid that was submitted.

C. Approve the cancellation of all credit cards issued to the district through TCM Bank.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to approve the cancellation of all credit cards issued to the district through TCM Bank.

Bradford MOVED and Lewis SECONDED the adoption of the resolution.

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

D. Approve payment of invoices to MAISD for services provided in the amount of \$130,414.86, per the terms in the temporary service provider agreement.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors make a motion to Approve payment of invoices to MAISD for services provided in the amount of \$130,414.86, per the terms in the temporary service provider agreement.

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

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

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Lewis - excited to have some of our meetings in various buildings across the district, and want to see the recorder show coming up in May. Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving and appreciate what everyone is doing for our students.
- Bradford - appreciate all in the audience
- Ross-Furse - Wishing all a happy holiday
- Superintendent Holmes - State Superintendent Dr. Rice will be visiting the district on November 29th from 1:00-3:00
- Slater - Thank you all for being here. Appreciate Ms. Gulley presenting her proposal and look forward to hearing full information on all strategic plan proposals.

XIII. **NEXT MEETING**

- Regular Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, December 19, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

XI. **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Ross-Furse MOVED to adjourn and Bradford SECONDED

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hillery Rose-Furse, Secretary