



Marco Island Charter Middle School

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Where Children Learn to Succeed

Jan 24, 2011

APPROVED MINUTES: MICMS BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ ROLL CALL

Jennifer Tenney, President
Cathy Cleary, Secretary
Bill Hollowsky, Treasurer
Stephanie Percel, member
Gail Collins, member

Also in attendance:

George Abounader, Principal/CEO, ex-officio non-voting member
Maria Hayden, Comptroller

Absent:

Lisa Meurgue, Vice President; Jim Young, member; Elizabeth Summers, member

George Abounader -

Ashley Loopole and Cindy Love from the Marco Island YMCA donated approximately \$600.00 to MICMS for needy students' clothing/uniforms.

Additionally, the YMCA board voted to add a line item in their operational budget for "clothes for kids," for future needs.

Athletic Director Position: Jane Watt of Marco Island Academy recently announced intent to hire Roger Raymond as Athletic Director for the Academy. He will do both jobs, although Roger indicated his number one commitment is to MICMS.

Concerns:

Ability to balance fundraising responsibilities for both schools.

Ability to manage additional responsibilities without impacting current role at MICMS.

Potential conflict of interest.

Setting a precedence?

Supportive comments:

Managing both schools' athletics programs may minimize scheduling conflicts between the two schools.

General consensus among board members: As George Abounader manages MICMS employees, it is his role to monitor any impact this arrangement may have on job performance. If it becomes a problem, the board will address it.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Motion by Cathy Cleary to approve agenda; Second by Bill Hollowsky; Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Bill Hollowsky to approve December minutes; Second by Stephanie Percel. Motion passed unanimously.

INSURANCE TASK FORCE UPDATE

Purpose – Seek employee feedback regarding what they want in an insurance plan.

George Abounader – committee of five staff members and Maria Hayden has been formed to survey staff input. Preliminary report will be supplied in February. Final findings will be presented by March or April.

Insurance Task Force Committee members:

Debbie Waldinger;
Maureen Marcoux;
Karen Raymond;
Joe Jarrett;
Vince Albanese;
Maria Hayden.

George Abounader will forward email he sent out to board meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dan Thompson, Gulfshore Insurance –

Presented stewardship report summarizing the first six months as insurance agent.

(Open enrollment in June through December, routine service of normal activities.) We've been able to save on long term life 23%, reduction in dental; saved the school more money. We are a client advocate to help employees through process. Outlined are approximately 30 instances of communications (diagnostic and one-on-one discussions).

Gail Collins asked if there have been two deductibles since insurance started? Yes. Policy year starts in July; Calendar year deductible starts Jan. 1st.

Bill Hollowsky – how often will you be returning to the school?

Monthly, or as employees' needs direct. As much as needed.

Maria Hayden – will have to check with Cathy Callahan regarding schedule for the next ½ day.

FINANCIALS

George Abounader – We are half way through the year; Revenue is at 52% and Expenses are at 46%. We are over in revenue and under expenses, with a net difference of 6%. Things are tight, but we are holding ground.

Next head count is in February. We budgeted for 360 students, and now we are at 366 students.

Maria Hayden –

We should make budget for Interest Income.

Bank Signature Cards – One more board member needs to be added.

Motion by Bill Hollowsky to have Cathy Cleary added to the bank signature card. Second by Stephanie Percel. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Cathy Cleary to approve financials; Second by Bill Hollowsky.

Motion passed unanimously.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

Timeshare and Silent Auction report will wait for next meeting.

George Abounader – showed a Lely High School banner for inside gym.

There are a couple of other banners in the works.

Queen for a Day – Maria Hayden said \$4,917.00 has been raised, Mutual of Omaha bank gave us \$2,500.00.

Jennifer Tenney will ask Heidi Broxson to let us know what she needs.

Cathy Cleary suggested fundraising reports be submitted in writing and included with meeting packets in advance, so board members are able to come to meetings ready to discuss and/or address questions.

GA will add that to the meeting packets.

Jennifer Tenney said fundraising is better than last year, although still short of budgeted goal.

Bill Hollowsky requested help with the Carnival project.

We have informal city approval. We need to come back with the date and vendor selection; obtain permitting; submit formal application for approval.

Maria Hayden will distribute a mass email requesting help.

Cathy Cleary suggested including request w/ the next accountability statement.

Gayle Collins asked for an update on bowling fundraiser?

Stephanie Percel will contact Bruce Davis to find out status and what we need to do to help.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Bill Hollowsky

Bylaws:

The MICMS Bylaws posted on the school website contain a typographical error in section 2.

Jennifer Tenney will check to see if an outdated copy is posted.

Policy wording in Bylaws regarding the Principal's authority to execute policy/procedural changes as board approved may need discussion for potential liability.

Is Stephanie Percel compensated out of the athletic fund for coaching?
No, she is a volunteer coach.

Gail Collins

Parent board members should not be able to use time spent at board meetings for their volunteer hours, because that would be considered compensation.

Maria Hayden said every parent board member normally gets credit for volunteer hours.

Motion by Gail Collins to restrict parent board members from using time spent at board meetings or at ad hoc meetings toward fulfilling their volunteer hours, unless they are working on a fundraising project.
Second by Stephanie Percel.

Motion passed 3 to 1.

In favor: Bill Hollowsky; Stephanie Percel; Gail Collins.

Against: Cathy Cleary

Bill Hollowsky

"Kids Island Party drop and shop" event.

George Abounader said it never went through, due to lack of interest.

New charter application status?

George Abounader said there are meetings and onsite observations scheduled. Process is much more bureaucratic this year.

I assume we will have a chance to review.

We are interested in seeing this as soon as possible.

George Abounader will provide. District will use a template provided by the state. It is a two party contract between the district and the MICMS board.

Gayle Collins

Asked for a copy of the Articles of Inc.; Charter Application; Bylaws; any policies.

George Abounader will provide information to all board members.

Cathy Cleary

Policies are not always clear. Students are told inconsistent information regarding uniform policy/requirements. There is confusion regarding what constitutes volunteer hours. There should be a document or book containing all policies.

Jennifer Tenney suggested each board member take a year to go through minutes, to create a list of approved policies.

George Abounader said this is a good summer project.

Gail Collins offered to research and document approved policies, provided the information is available all in one spot.

Bill Hollowsky

Regarding the YMCA donation: Can we earmark part of the Friends of Marco Island Charter Middle School funds to contribute to their efforts helping needy students?

Maria Hayden – student financial assistance is a line item in our budget under the fundraising report. On expense side, on basic instruction, student financial assistance is category # 51591 which is how much we spent to date on clothes, food (lunches) etc.

George Abounader – Wesley United Methodist church each year will adopt a student, adding revenue to that fund.

Individual Rotary Club members have donated funds this as well.

Cathy Cleary asked that all contributing companies/individuals be recognized regularly on the school website, as previously discussed.

Maria Hayden said we used to post a banner.

Cathy Cleary

Asked the board to consider revising portions of the School's Uniform Policy, as some seem unreasonable and beyond scope of authority.

Current policy states the only approved outerwear is a school logo sweatshirt purchased from the school.

School policy should not require families to purchase school products for uniform compliance. The policy should include plain non-logo sweaters, sweatshirts, or jackets.

The policy should indicate specifically when students can wear jeans, eliminating the need for all call announcements when the weather is cold.

Inconsistent enforcement singles out some students, while others are not.

Policy states t-shirts cannot be worn under uniform shirts.

Policy should not dictate what undergarments students choose to wear, as long as the undergarment contains no logos or writing which can be seen through their regular uniform shirt, and is not exposed.

George Abounader suggested addressing it when the enrollment packet comes up for approval. I will look at it more closely then.

Cathy Cleary will provide a sample revision to the board.

Maria Hayden said sweatshirt sales helps PTO, and the prices are reasonable. You are taking money away from PTO. If someone cannot afford it, we will supply it.

Jennifer Tenney will put it on the next meeting agenda.

Asked about the likelihood of offering skill building clinics and/or an intramural program:

With many students not making the cut for competitive sports teams, and some JV level sports teams and the entire baseball program being eliminated, we are missing out on opportunities to help students develop skills and stay involved with school activities.

Stephanie Percel said to be careful not to take kids away from other organizations, such as the YMCA.

I work with four teams on year-round volleyball at the YMCA, so if there is a program here, I probably wouldn't have those kids participating.

Jennifer Tenney suggested adding this discussion to the agenda for the next meeting.

Motion by Gail Collins to adjourn meeting; Second by Bill Hollowsky.

Motion passed unanimously. 8:10PM