

Marco Island Charter Middle School
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2009

The meeting was called to order and a quorum established.

Members present: Tarik Ayasun, Catherine Cleary, William Morris, Jim Reinders, Elizabeth Summers, Jennifer Tenney, Jim Young.

Absent: Joe Hausauer.

Also in attendance: George Abounader, Maria Hayden, Dawn Hollowsky.

Tarik moved to amend the agenda to put the president's report at the end and move up the treasurer's report and principal's report. Bill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tarik moved to approve the minutes, Bill Seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jim Young presented the Treasurer's report. There is a projected carryover of \$52,815.54. \$33,000 was saved in capital on charges that were fought against by Maria for transferring the trailers. Maria was thanked for all her hard work in saving money. It was pointed out that the carryover in this economy and in a year when the state actually cut \$125,000 from the amount we expected to get is great and is due to a lot of good management. George was thanked for his hard work in efficiently running the school. We are still short \$11,500 on our fund raising goal. There is a growing number of parents contributing something to the school.

Jim Y. presented the Audit contract. The same firm has been doing our audit since the beginning of the school. In exchange for a 3 year contract, they offered to cut the fee. They are specialized in auditing charter schools.

Jennifer moved to approve the contract, Tarik seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Movement of savings and accounts to a. maximize rate of return and b. minimize any account having more than \$250,000 was discussed. Direction and discretion was given to Maria and Jim Y. to proceed to move money in order to accomplish those goals.

Principal's report:

George passed out a memorandum with a summary and highlights of the school year. Jim pointed out that George himself raised \$40,000.00 on his own. Teachers and staff and George all took the initiative and contributed their time to the new academic programs: homework club and Saturday school and the new academic program was a success: we did not have anyone who was unable to continue on at the school. The school got a new record high writing score, due to all teachers writing across the curriculum, and due especially to Ms. Holdsworth, 8th grade language arts teacher. The students of the school continue to succeed and excel, with several awards and honors.

George also emphasized that with the economy in the state it is, the students have more stress than ever before. We had our first homeless child and the numbers on free or reduced lunch is higher than ever before. In addition, teachers, George, clubs, and members of the community reached into their own pockets to provide necessities (supplies, uniforms, sweatshirts) to the students in need. We do not have a counselor at the school and rely on visiting counselors to provide assistance to students.

Bylaws changes:

Tarik moved to defer the discussion and vote until all members are present.

Jennifer seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth and Cathy brought up the website and the failure to provide all information on it. Cathy suggested getting the pictures and contact info of board members on there, as well as minutes and bylaws. It was pointed out that last minute scheduling changes on sporting events will be difficult, however, the times and dates of all events should be posted as best as possible. George asked Cathy to speak with Ms. Marcu over the summer to discuss changes to the website.

Tarik motioned for all pamphlets from city, YMCA and Optimist Club to be deemed approved to be distributed without having to be specifically reviewed by the board. Bill seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

George and Maria left the meeting and bonuses were discussed for the staff:

The following bonuses were proposed (same as last year):

Rona	1000
Cathy V	1000
Maria	2000
Roger R	2000
Mark A.	2000
Cathy C.	2000
Maureen	2000
Pedro	1000
George	5000

Tarik made the motion to approve the bonuses, Jim Y seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Teacher bonuses for staff that went above and beyond was discussed. Jim pointed out that we pay our teachers better than any other teachers in the district. We authorized the full staff being kept with a 2% raise. No bonuses were given in the past, however, with the new academic policy, many teachers are contributing above and beyond. A discussion took place on whether a bonus would be appropriate and how to determine the standards for giving the bonus. It was discussed that George would be given a block of money and then would be given the discretion to award it to the deserving teachers. Jim Y suggested asking George to make recommendations and bring it to the board at the next meeting.

Jim R then made comments on general governance of the board. Jim discussed acting as a board, and not as individuals/parents and filtering all requests to staff through the board. His recommendation is that the staff be asked by the board as a whole if a certain report or data is necessary, not have individual board members take up their time with requests. Cathy pointed out that as a board member, she needed to have certain information to make informed decisions and that she was having a hard time getting it. She pointed out that she is very clear about when she is acting as a board member and when she is acting as a parent. She brought up a letter of concern addressed to the board, sent to her anonymously. The board decided not to hear the concerns of the anonymous letter. If the letter was signed, it would be addressed. Dawn H. expressed her concern that there are valid feelings in the anonymous letter; Tarik responded that we will address concerns, but not coming from an anonymous letter.

Mrs. Young asked what is the best way for a parent to find out more about the school. She pointed out that parents may be scared to reveal their identities. Cathy agreed and expressed her frustration in getting information on what's going on, looking for meeting times to be more clearly posted, she wants more information on fights, she expressed concern that volunteers were not called back when they offered to help. She wants to see a discipline report to see whether discipline programs are effective.

Jim R. requested she bring up any information she wants at a board meeting, we can then vote on it, and pass it on to George. Cathy motioned to get a disciplinary report, Bill seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Young volunteered to be a volunteer coordinator. Bill moved to appoint her, Tarik seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously. Elizabeth offered to help. The meeting was adjourned.

A parents committee was discussed, and it was pointed out that the PTO may be a more appropriate venue for addressing parent concerns. Jennifer T expressed her surprise, as a non-parent, that there was negativity amongst certain parents, given the success of the school and the students. Jim concluded that if there are concerns, we need to address them.

The meeting was adjourned.