

The Mountain Community School Board
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2024
Location: The Mountain Community School

Call to Order

6:07 p.m. by Sarah Cosgrove

Board Members present: Shalee Beddingfield, Aimie Burns, Sarah Cosgrove, Carina Erkel, Rick Prudhomme, Rebecca Schwartz, Adam Silverberg, Lauren Tilden, Brad Ward

Staff members present: Cathey Chet, Brad Hallmark, Anthony Johnson, Noelle McKay, Andy Osiecki

Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve the agenda by Brad Ward; seconded by Carina Erkel.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approval of January 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve the January meeting minutes by Shalee Beddingfield; seconded by Rick Prudhomme.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Financial Report

January Budget Report

- The budget currently shows a \$39,182.30 surplus. With the approved adjustment for the Resource Development position and unexpected AC repairs, a net deficit is expected by year-end.

Approval of January Budget Report

Motion made to approve the January budget report by Brad Ward; seconded by Carina Erkel. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Principal's Report

School Development

- The number of unexcused absences has continued to decrease since December.
- An 8th grader has withdrawn. Funding is not likely to decrease because of the time of the year the withdrawal took place.

Compliance

The Civil Rights Data Collection has been completed. This federal reporting required every other year.

Funding

- The Annual Funds are approximately \$22,000. Plans are being developed for a school-wide spring push for the annual campaign.
- The Board has been asked to review a list of local businesses may be approached for annual campaign donations. The list will be emailed to board members with requested feedback.
- The GO Outdoor grant was awarded to TMCS to build an outdoor learning space. The outdoor classroom must be completed by the last day of school.
- Annual Funds are to be used for development of Discovery Park and athletic uniforms which have already been purchased. A survey went out to both staff and families to identify priorities for Discovery Park. The board noted the importance of designing the area with an ADA mindset and including accommodations whenever possible.
- The school received a \$73,000 award from NC Safer Schools Grant. The money covers high-tech vape detectors, traffic cones, additional cameras, and 35 new radios. TMCS is waiting for

licensure approval from the FCC. Funding does not cover the cost of fencing around the perimeter of the school. Remaining funding maybe used to transition from key access to card access.

School Management

Personnel Updates

- The hiring process including background check and vetting have been completed for:
K Assistant – Monica Souther
1st Grade Assistant – Libby Evans
4/5th Grade Assistant (part time) – Melissa Schuler

Motion made to approve the hiring of Monica Souther, Libby Evans, and Melissa Schuler by Carina Erkel; seconded by Adam Silverberg. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Open Enrollment Updates

- As of 2/23, 173 applicants have entered the Lottrease system. Approximately 60 of those are interested in kindergarten. Reasonable interest has been shown for middle school. Tom Miller suggests a waitlist reflecting 100% of the school population is preferred.
- Enrollment information in both English and Spanish has been sent to WNC Source and Children and Family Resource Center.
- The board is interested in reviewing enrollment numbers from past years.

Summer Testing Plan

- EOG retesting plans are created by individual schools and then submitted to the state for approval.
- TMCS is proposing to use the same plan that was submitted and approved the previous year. Retesting is not required but is optional and the decision of the individual families. Retesting can improve the overall grade of the school but will not affect growth scores or teacher bonuses.
- The full plan was provided and presented to the board by Brad Hallmark.

Motion made to approve the Summer Testing Plan as presented by Rick Prudhomme; seconded by Shalee Beddingfield. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MAP Testing

- TMCS uses MAP testing as a way to track student proficiency and progress throughout the course of the year. MAP testing results were presented by Brad Hallmark.

2024-2025 Board Calendar

- The few notable differences between the proposed calendar and current 2023-2024 calendar include moving a day-off from President's Day to Valentine's Day which is on a Friday and taking Friday, November 1st as a Teacher Work Day.

Motion to approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar as presented was made by Rick Prudhomme; seconded by Adam Silverberg. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Comment

Sarah Cosgrove opened the meeting for public comment at 7:10 pm. No one addressed the board. No action was taken.

During the previous board meeting, special dispensation was granted from the standard public comments process to allow for more discussion. Future meetings are expected to follow the approved process allowing speakers 3 minutes each to address the board.

TMCS Updates

Gala

- The Gala had previously been postponed because of timing conflicts.
- The purpose of the Gala is to raise money for the school and celebrate TMCS's 25 Anniversary in conjunction with other 25th Anniversary events that are as yet to be determined. Further planning for the Gala and selection of a new date will go to committee.

Motion to move forward with the Gala made by Rick Prudhomme; seconded by Carina Erkel. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Field Trips

- The current field trip policy will remain in place. No further action taken.

School Committees Update

- The new committee structure was discussed by the board as presented in the board packet.
- The plan recommends dissolving the Executive Committee for the purposes of transparency.
- Formation of the Finance Committee needs to be prioritized to meet upcoming budget planning and annual campaign responsibilities.
- The Code of Conduct will be applicable to all standing and ad hoc committees.
- Regarding board communications: Anytime a quorum of the board is present, comments are considered public. This includes formal and informal meetings, zoom meetings, phone calls, and email threads.

Motion to have Shalee Beddingfield, Lauren Tilden, and Carina Erkel plan and implement the new committee structure for standing and ad hoc committees made by Rick Prudhomme; seconded by Rebecca Schwartz. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

School Expansion

- The Growth Committee is exploring first steps in expansion which will begin with branding and marketing the school to develop a ground swell of support. First steps will also likely include an internal expansion of programming and possibly engaging a firm to work with TMCS on marketing.

School Governance

- The committee is in the process of reviewing by-laws.

Board of Conduct

- The draft of the document is still under review by the board.

Board Development

- Next month a call will be sent out requesting application for people interested serving as board members.
- The committee is working on a new board member binder.

Other Business

- The next board meeting is on April 2, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- The next executive board meeting will not be held.

Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn by Rick Prudhomme; seconded by Carina Erkel.
Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm by Sarah Cosgrove.