

Minutes of the Board of Directors of MS Delta Academies
Zoom video call (meeting recorded)
Tuesday, December 15, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Emily Cupples at 5:50pm CST with a quorum in attendance.

Board members in attendance: Ms. Emily Cupples (Chair), Attorney McKinley Martin, Dr. Sonja Alexander, Rev. Steve Fortenberry

Board members absent: Dr. Jacquelyn Brownlow

Leadership team members in attendance: Dr. Tamala Boyd Shaw

Others in attendance: Rene Fumich, financial consultant

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Alexander made a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting at 5:52pm CST. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martin. The motion carried unanimously with none opposed.

Approval of Prior Minutes

The members reviewed onscreen the minutes from the November 24, 2020 board meeting. Mr. Martin noted that his name was shortened to just "McKinley" rather than reflecting his full name on the signature page. With this correction, Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Alexander seconded the motion. No questions were posed. The motion carried unanimously.

Board President's Report

Ms. Cupples yielded her time in lieu of making a report.

Executive Session

The committee members yielded their time in lieu of conducting a session.

Executive Director's Report

MSCAB report: The MS Charter Authorizer Board recently voted to require charter schools to use the MDE accounting model and guide. The new requirements were reviewed by Rene Fumich, who advised that Leflore Legacy is already in alignment in most areas. When the next fiscal year begins, the school will adopt the MDE model. Ms. Fumich reported she is highlighting areas of change and interest in the MDE guide so the board and leadership team will have a better understanding of the differences.

Annual performance goal: Dr. Shaw met with MSCAB to set annual ELA and Math proficiency goals. The goals are 15% proficient in Math and 23% in ELA, based on performance data from the previous school districts of Leflore Legacy students. The school will aim higher while using these targets as a minimum.

Discussion: Dr. Alexander requested a January Academic Committee meeting to include the school curriculum director and ANET coach so everyone understands how these targets were set and how future targets will be set. Meeting was scheduled for Jan. 6.

Launch to Learning Phase 3: The board previously received and reviewed the Launch to Learning Phase 3 plan for resumption of in-person learning in January. Students will return in either a hybrid (in-person Mon-Thur, virtual Fri) model or continue 100% virtual learning based on parental choice. Dr. Shaw

reported the parent survey results: 119 responded, 4 did not, 69 want in-person learning, and 50 want to continue virtually. Of the teachers surveyed, 1 teacher was unsure and 7 teachers are in favor of a return in-person learning. Local COVID case numbers will be monitored and the plan adjusted accordingly. In the event of an outbreak (3+ confirmed cases), the school will revert to 100% virtual.

Two options are under consideration. Virtual students will either A) Attend classes while teachers instruct both in-person and virtual students at the same time, or B) All virtual students will have class together with a block schedule of two cohorts, Green and Purple, and teachers would teach only in-person or virtual in any given class period.

Discussion: Rev. Fortenberry spoke about his experience with educating youth in person during the pandemic. Dr. Shaw reviewed the plan to have a nurse, isolation space, and preventative measures. Dr. Alexander asked how to handle the teacher who is unsure about returning to in-person learning and made recommendations. Mr. Martin offered criteria for decision-making: 1) Are parents on board? 2) Are staff on board? and 3) Is it in line with the community?

Vote: Rev. Fortenberry made a motion to adopt the Launch to Learning Phase 3 Plan as presented. Dr. Alexander seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor.

Facilities Lease: Dr. Shaw shared a floorplan to explain the lease options, either to 1) Lease the entire third floor or 2) Lease a portion of the third floor. Both will require revisions to the current budget.

Discussion: Dr. Alexander asked for further discussion and consideration of long-term facility plans. Mr. Martin asked to see a revised version of the budget that reflects the increase in lease expenses. The board will revisit the lease options after the budget revisions have been made.

Financial overview: The local ad valorem funds will be received in January. Dr. Shaw reported the school was approved for a GEER Fund grant specific to COVID mitigation, which is earmarked for additional custodial staff, additional nursing hours, and other COVID-related expenses. The school also applied to the Community Foundation of Northwest MS for a \$12K grant to help offset the cost of furniture purchased to facilitate social distancing.

Committee Reports

Governance: The committee met last week and discussed the Launch to Learning plan and the Executive Director's contract. A contract draft was forwarded to the attorney for review. Next steps: Await attorney's feedback and discuss at the next Governance Committee meeting. Mr. Martin reported that BoardonTrack contacted him with an even better offer and he will follow up.

Academic & Financial Committees: No report made.

Good of the Order

Next meeting: 6pm Jan. 26th.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm CST by Ms. Cupples.

Minutes Reviewed and Draft Approved by:



Dr. Tamala Boyd Shaw, Executive Director

Minutes Reviewed and Approved by:

Ms. Emily Cupples, Board President