



# MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board Of Directors

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Board Agenda Item	
Date:	08.13.2015
To:	Magnolia Board of Directors
From:	Caprice Young, Ed.D. CEO & Superintendent
Staff Lead:	Caprice Young
RE:	Agenda Overview

As we are edging into the 2015-16 fiscal year, this is our last board meeting before the start of the 2015-16 school year. I'm knocking on wood as I write this, but I think this is our first relatively routine board meeting. Our consent calendar consists of approving minutes, updating student and staff handbooks to comply with changing regulations, reapproving routine school site contracts and adoption of a training contract to ensure that our staff knows how to use all of the great technology we have just purchased for the school sites. The rest of the agenda consists of information items, including the long awaited item describing how our instructional teams plan to work around not having Accord Institute support on our Los Angeles sites. We've reserved a spot for a closed session discussion in case one is needed regarding the MSA 1 gym building purchase; however, we do not foresee that being necessary right now.

September is coming quickly and the one thing we must do at that meeting is appoint a new board member. It is the very last not done promise from our settlement agreement. With all of the summer vacations, the Nominations/Governance Committee will not be able to meet until the very end of August, so we have scheduled some time on this agenda for discussion of board membership if needed.

With the rare opportunity of ten minutes to breathe and reflect, I would just like to mention how grateful the entire leadership team of Magnolia is to you. Very few volunteer boards accomplish as much as you have in such a short period of time. Your dedication has been incredible and we do hope to make it easier on you. Just since December 1<sup>st</sup>, you have held 22 public board meetings. However, here are some (only some) of the organizational accomplishments in that same period of time. They are listed by organizational unit, but required collaboration across all groups and among home office and school sites—often under pressure. You have great people.

## Governance

- Added three outstanding board members (Diane Gonzalez, Remzi Oten, Nguyen Huynh)
- Won renewal of MSA 6, 7, 8 and San Diego
- Settled litigation with LAUSD
- Began implementation of Board on Track
- Created a board committee structure

- Hired a new audit firm
- Established the first ever Board retreat and scheduled more during 2015-16
- Increase principal authority and accountability, including providing ownership over site budgets and strengthening approval processes

### Academics

- Culminated 31 fifth graders and 846 eighth graders
- Graduated 168 high school students with plans to go on to higher education or the military
- Held MPS' first ever STEM EXPO with more than 400 participants, including four board members and keynote speaker Dr. Steven Levin, Juno Project Scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- Provided free summer school to 1068 students for the first time in Magnolia history
- Won Congressional Leadership Awards
- Continued student victories in science, math and other academic and unique contests (including archery state champs!)
- Established the use of data to drive intervention alerts for students at low, medium and high levels to ensure student progress
- Engaged principals and deans in creating school profiles concentrating on student academic needs and strategies
- Doubled (to 2!) the number of our schools competing in the Academic Decathlon
- MSA 1 won Gold award in the US News and World Report Rankings AGAIN
- Piloted Edge Coaching with students leading to an invitation to present at the LAUSD-wide Charter Operated Programs best practices summit
- Reached the lowest suspension and expulsion rates in Magnolia history because of the implementation of alternatives to suspension and PBIS
- Increased our attendance rate to the highest in Magnolia history, upwards of 97 percent
- Created an effective and inclusive staff curriculum committee (37 participants across all Magnolia Schools including virtual participation) that deliberated and selected a Common Core program for implementation MPS-wide
- Earned preliminary WASC accreditation for MSA Santa Ana

### Talent

- Established new home office leadership team
- Expanded tuition reimbursement to include teachers, site-based leadership and home office staff
- Held (Aug. 10-14, 2015) the first MPS-wide teacher professional development week
- Gained permission to restart MPS' international teacher recruitment program after review
- Recognized and acted upon the need for a competitive salary for principals
- Recruited a Human Resources Director with the expertise needed to build a personnel function capable of supporting the size and complexity of MPS
- Fully established the Dean of Community role in three (now five) schools to engage parents and community stakeholders
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## Community

- Created Chief External Officer and Director of Partnerships positions
- Won an Arts integration grant from the Annenberg Performing Arts Center for MSA 7
- Established an education technology innovation collaboration with the Los Angeles Regional Technology Alliance (announcement forthcoming)
- Shifted reputation from negative to positive momentum with second quarter of 2015 showing 14 out of 15 news stories about Magnolia with positive tone and content
- Rallied the support of hundreds of parents to support renewal of MSA charters before the SDUSD, LAUSD and LACOE boards.
- MSA 1 received a Community Choice Award from the Warner Center Chamber of Commerce
- MSA 3 parent awarded a “Heroes in Education” leadership recognition from LAUSD
- Established positive, open relationships with authorizers’ staffs and began process of deeper outreach for longer term change
- Presented a Letter of Intent to serve the families of Palm Lane Elementary School in Anaheim, California

## Finance

- Won affirmation of the right to loan funds among schools that sets industry-wide precedent
- Came through a State Audit process vindicated and moving forward
- Convinced Standard & Poor’s to upgrade Magnolia’s financial outlook from negative to stable
- Responded to the LAUSD/VLS audit findings
- Established a transparent procurement process for contracts over \$25,000
- Completed consolidated audit, adding comprehensive disclosures and notes
- Completed federal single audit of FY 2013-14 for federal grants
- Rebuilt the financial team transitioning to EdTech
- Completed initial revision of overall policies and procedures, with ongoing reviews in progress concurrent with the onboarding of EdTech
- Developed and implemented CMO allocation structure
- Earned CSFA designation of “financially sound”
- SAB fully funded \$17.4m in state bonds
- Helped MSA Santa Ana principal mitigate costs and to obtain \$575,000 in PCSGP grants
- Negotiated the FCMAT oversight agreement
- Implemented new payroll internal controls, and moved payroll to twice monthly payments to comply with California labor codes
- Established a home office 401k retirement plan
- Implemented new internal controls related to fund raising and provided training to both school principals and office staff
- Revised truancy reporting methodology to align with state requirements
- Established home office annual budget and school site budget process
- Documented intra-company loans
- Eliminated debit cards (and debit accounts) for school principals and implemented risk free credit cards
- Implemented procedures regarding timeliness of bank deposits

- Succeeded in helping RBC remarket the MSA 1 bonds after bring up-to-date disclosure requirements

### Facilities

- Completed SB 740 filings for all eligible schools (adding two schools that had not previously filed)
- Completed a ten-year extension of the zoning variance for MSA 1
- Entered escrow on the gym building for MSA 1 at a price dropped from \$5.4m to \$3.8m, owner financed
- Recovered \$139,000 in State Facilities Incentive Grant Program funds for MSA 2 and 5
- Addressed MSA 4 bathroom problem quickly and prevented LAUSD from overcharging allocation
- Fixed the MSA 5 Prop 39 offer to keep the school in continuous space
- Reestablished the relationship with the MSA 6 landlord, convincing him to renew the lease, creating a protocol for communication and giving MSA additional rights as tenants
- Wrote a Proposition 39 application to establish a precedent leading to getting Chrome books in lieu of Proposition 39 for MSA 6 and 1
- Improved the interior space for MSA 7 and met with the church leadership and the city council office to plan the addition of six portables for 2016-17
- Addressing immediate and longer term ADA issues
- Extending the facilities use agreement at MSA 8 to save hundreds of thousands of dollars versus becoming a Proposition 39 facility, which also kept the school from having to vacate the site during the summer (which would have kept MSA 8 from having summer school)
- Found potential alternate sites for MSA 3, 6, 5, and Santa Ana when their existing sites were in question during the spring
- Searched through over 100 potential sites for MSA Santa Clara, including outreach to 12 adjacent school districts, participating in stakeholder meetings, and driving concurrent negotiating efforts with SCUSD, and supportive outreach with SCCOE board members
- Found the National Hispanic University site, negotiated lease and managed move in
- Managed the closed down of the Central Park MSA Santa Clara site including the move out, storage, temporary office, clean up and negotiating the SCUSD demand down from \$450,000+ to \$25,000.
- Developed offer to purchase MSA SD site until finance team and attorneys advised against it as too financially risky given MPS' legal and financial position in Feb 2015
- Maintained contact with MSA San Diego site developer to purchase current site
- Re-established relationship with SDUSD school district facilities staff for an open dialog on a new Proposition 1D eligible site for MSA San Diego
- Reestablished the relationship with the MSA Santa Ana pastor through once a week meetings leading to a move from a month-to-month lease to a year-long lease
- Stewarded the MSA Santa Ana State Agency approval process through the funding, rebid and restart of construction
- Managed the construction contractor side of the ground breaking event for the new MSA Santa Ana school site

## Technology

- Submitted E-Rate application for 2015-16 school year for all schools for total grant amount of \$200K
- Purchased MSA-1, MSA-6, and MSA-7's wireless Access Points
- Installed new server and firewall at MSA-1 and cabling for all classrooms for wireless coverage
- Purchased 550 Chromebooks for MSA-2
- Purchased new phone system for MSA Santa Ana
- All schools were visited for successful Smarter Balanced testing readiness
- MPS STEM EXPO digital/print/promotional items design and tech support
- MSA-4 Venice internet speed upgraded to 100Mbps
- Submitted Prop39 classroom technology application for MSA-2, MSA-3, MSA-4, and MSA-5. (MSA-4 will receive a laptop, 5 Desktop PCs, projector August 5 th)
- Daily IT support for MPS main office departments and all schools MPS main website updates
- Technical support for business team while transitioning to EdTech
- Technical support for business team for the State Audit (digging back through years of records)