APPROVED

Menlo Park Academy Governing Board

Minutes

Board Strategic/Goal Review Meeting

Date and Time
Saturday April 2, 2016 at 8:00 AM

Location
MPA

OUR MISSION: Menlo Park Academy is a public school that develops the potential of gifted learners through an exemplary program of rewarding experiences that nurtures the whole child.

Directors Present
Amanda Ross, Cathy Aldrich, Dawn Doran, Suzanne McFarland, Teri Harrison

Directors Absent
Allen Mix, Andrew Hudak, Fraser Hamilton Sr, Jehad Deir

Directors who left before the meeting adjourned
Amanda Ross, Dawn Doran

Guests Present
Amber Oxley, Beverley Veccia, Doug Thompson

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

Teri Harrison called a meeting to order on Saturday Apr 2, 2016 at 8:51 AM.

II. Welcome - Agenda Review

A. Welcome Activity

Skipped for time reasons.

III. Facility Items

A. Property Taxes

T. Harrison gave a summary on the issue with regard to our responsibility to pay the property taxes for the W. 53rd property. We can apply for a waiver in the future.
Discussion of what is left in the pre-development loan.
Suzanne McFarland made a motion to to pay the property taxes up to $10,000 from the pre-development funds.
Dawn Doran seconded the motion.
The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Development & Philanthropy

A. Philanthropic Culture

L. Sierk presented information on how to develop a Philanthropic culture and how that impacts the staffing model of the organization.Philanthropy is about promoting the mission; we are a school and a philanthropic, non-profit organization. How do we promote this idea? Communication and building relationships among stakeholders; engage community in the mission with both internal and external community members. ALL are ambassadors of the mission. Board and Staff are Partners. We need a development professional to help lead us to a philanthropic culture. Admin and DCRC will work together to look at a staffing model and hire appropriately. Discussion about how to move forward with building the culture. With the strong educational program and a strong organization the philanthropy should follow. T. Harrison reported on the Ohio Facilities Grant opportunity. We qualify to apply and it is a matching grant.

B. Staffing Model

After Development Director departed, the board asked B. Veccia and A. Oxley to think through the staffing model that will lead to success in achieving our goals. Four options with pros and cons were presented and discussed. DCRC & HR committee to continue to work with admin team and make recommendation.
Dawn Doran left.
Discussion of Spring Concert fundraising plans. C. Aldrich to email Civic Auditorium Manager to follow up with contract.

Amanda Ross left.

V. Board Goals

A. Succession Planning

Discussion of Succession Planning for Staff. Ensure leadership and critical functions continue if an administrative leader needs to take a leave of absence or departs for any reason. Helps create strong organizational culture which, in turn, supports a philanthropic culture.

Discuss Board Succession Plan for Chair/President to build in smooth transitions and allow for continuity of leadership. S. McFarland presented idea for having a Chair Elect, Chair and Past Chair. Can still have other board officers with this model. Discussion on how this would fit into current Board Elections Policy and roles and terms of members and officers. Governance, with S. McFarland invited (meeting or via email), to go over this suggested plan and how it would impact other policies and present to the Board at the April meeting.

B. Goal Tasks Assignments

C. Aldrich and T. Harrison to review Board Goals and make suggestions on assignments for Board Discussion.

C. Board Composition

C. Aldrich reported that Governance identified Development and Marketing expertise as the most critical need for the Board skill set. Legal expertise is also a need.
Doug Thompson left.

D. member elections process

Governance will look at putting language in the elections policy that there is a time limit to inform the GC chair about intentions to stand for reelection. C. Aldrich reported that the GC is discussing timing of Board Reelection processes and evaluations of individual Board Members. Further discussion on that process was had. T. Harrison suggested moving elections to May for this year. A. Oxley suggested that any strong contenders go get BCI/FBI and conflict of interest prior to May election and if not elected, then we can reimburse associated costs; also give information on training. Discussion of other ideas how to recruit and onboarding. C. Aldrich to work with T. Harrison and A.Oxley to send out email to community as in the past.

T. Harrison mentioned we need to put together a parent survey to obtain information from Board and Committees. Need to have a board committee coordinator (previously intended to be vice-chair). Discussion of increased use of executive committee and ways to decrease number and length of meetings by committees handling full discussion of items in advance.

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Aldrich
Did not vote on adjournment due to not having quorum by the end of the meeting.