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## MWA CEO Report to the Making Waves Academy Board

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May 2023

Spring sports are well underway with playoffs starting for some teams, the prom has occurred, and end-of-the year state testing has begun. Planning and implementation is also well underway for 2023-24. Hiring continues to be a focus area as well as celebrating our senior college and career decisions.

### Snapshots and Highlights

- The WASC (school accreditation process) mid-cycle review was successfully completed.
- The annual charter authorizer visit from CCCOE was completed.
- The annual charter authorizer trustee visit occurred, with Trustee, Sarah Butler visiting.
- The spring Curriculum Review and Advisory Committee meeting was held successfully.
- The LCAP process is wrapping up in preparation for a review/approval at the June Board meeting.
- We are finalizing the 2023-24 budget.
- Recruitment/hiring for critical positions for the 2023-24 school year are occurring.
- The final Saturday parent meeting of the school occurred in April.
- Parent leaders from MWA and Caliber Schools worked with our new partner organization, **Contra Costa County Charter Coalition ("5C")**, on organizing a school tour at MWA and a nearby Caliber school campus. The purpose of the tour, led by the parent leaders of our respective schools, is to help local elected officials and members of the larger community to learn more about our respective schools and charter schools in general.

### Charter Renewal Updates

SB739 is a state bill being considered in the CA legislature that would extend the moratorium on charter renewals. More specifically, it would grant charter schools whose charter term ends in June 2024 (like MWA), an additional year on their charter terms before renewal. The legislation was passed by the Senate Education Committee. It now has to continue to move through the legislative approval process until it is voted on by the state legislature. If it passes, MWA's charter would extend through June 2025. This would give us two more years of data that would either be included on the state dashboard for school academic performance or data that we could share in the charter renewal process. The passage of AB 1505 puts more emphasis on the state dashboard and the use of approved verifiable data to inform charter renewals. Given our current results on the state dashboard, this would give us more time to demonstrate academic growth and improvement as well as improvement in other areas of the state dashboard. We will keep the Board updated.

## Remaining Works in Progress and Challenges

- **Supervision (Campus Safety)** – Campus supervision has improved as three additional campus supervisors have joined the team. Having more capacity is making a difference.
- **Poor Student Choices** – Unfortunately, students are still adjusting to an environment with daily rules and expectations. Coming out of the pandemic, self-regulation, anxiety, and focus is still a challenge for some of our Wave-Makers. In the most critical instances, suspensions are still occurring. And, administering detention and ramping up restorative practices is also starting to help. One of the biggest levers we are using are meetings with students, parents, and a dean/assistant principal/principal discussing academic performance (grades), attendance, and behaviors. Parents have appreciated having this level of clarity.
- **Parent Communication re: Grades, Behavior, and Attendance** – We know and have plans to better systemize ways of increasing communication with parents next year. One of those ways includes sending out grade report updates every 3-4 weeks over the course of the semester so parents know closer to real time where their child stands in each of their classes.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation** – Assistant Principal of the upper school, Eric Becker, and I will be hosting an orientation with 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents this month to help parents better understand expectations for the upper school, along with expectations for earning course credits towards their high school diplomas, being “a-g” eligible, and being clear about the expectations for being in high school.

## Additional Responsibilities

### *North Coast Section Board of Managers President Term*

For the past two years I have been serving as the President Elect for the North Coast Section (NCS) Board of Managers (BOM). The North Coast Section is one of 10 interscholastic sections for the CA Interscholastic Federation (CIF), the body that governs and supports CA high school athletics. The BOM is the governing body that support the NCS commissioner to provide oversight and support, host section and state play-offs, and professional development for the athletic directors and coaches. Heads of school, superintendents, principals, and athletic directors represent the various leagues on the BOM.

Two years ago, I was nominated the voted in as the President Elect. Starting July 1, I will begin a two year-term as the President, supporting the commissioner, Pat Cruikshank, the work he does on behalf of our section. This year in my role, I served on the executive committee and the finance committee. Over the course of the year in this role, I attend three Board of Managers meetings, three executive committee meetings, and 1-2 Federated Council meetings. The Federated Council is comprised of commissioners and Presidents of the 10 sections along with some staff.

I have served on the Board of Managers for about the last 8-9 years. Our section’s leadership are a very committed group of people who care a lot about not just high school athletics but also the overall student experience and the lessons that are learned through sports. We are comprised of schools from the East Bay all the way up to the Oregon-California border. We have small schools and big schools, private schools and public schools, rural schools and urban schools. We are in a great section where students matter.

*5C Acting Executive Council President*

5C is an entity that was developed, in partnership with charter schools across Contra Costa County, to amplify parent power and parent voice. As decisions on charter schools are made – e.g. charter renewals, funding, etc. – we want to make sure we support ways for the parents whose children attend our schools to have organized ways of making their voice heard on these matters. Often, political decisions of this nature leave out or ignore the voices of the families either most affected or those who most want the option that public charter schools provide. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Caliber Schools and MWA hosted parent-led tours of both of our schools. People joining the tour were locally elected officials, community members, and funders.

I thought it was important to name some of the various ways MWA is integrated into the fabric of Bay Area schools as well as within Contra Costa County and Richmond. On some days I feel a little spread thin but overall, in terms of time, these additional responsibilities (in service of not just MWA students but a broader range of students across the Bay Area) require a modest and manageable lift.

**Objectives for 2022-23**

<b>Areas of Focus</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Updates</b>
<i>Campus safety and culture</i>	Align and deploy resources to address campus safety, improve the sense of well-being on campus, and see improvements in school culture.	The deans are receiving training from a trusted service provider on strengthening restorative practices and applying these practices more after incidents among students and involving staff. I am talking with the deans about preparing for next year and will work with the Ops team on adjustments related to bring the upper school gym online and shifts we could make to strengthen supervision.
<i>Routines, Expectations, and Procedures (REPs) &amp; Standardized Operating Procedures (SOPs)</i>	Develop clear routines, expectations, and procedures that are both school-wide and differentiated by grade level and by functional area.	Some of the REPs are more consistently being carried out across campus, but there is still much room for improvement. Some of the REPs are not consistently implemented, with fidelity, by all teachers. I wonder if it might feel hard for some teachers to hold students accountable for some REPs due to lack of confidence or awareness of the importance of helping students feel safe by creating consistent expectations and routines.
<i>Instruction</i>	Professional development plans, trainings, and meetings that are aligned with best practices, guaranteed and viable, and that can be implemented with fidelity in both school-wide and differentiated practices.	The Assistant Principals, Ms. Moloney, and I have met to come to agreement on approaches to curriculum, assessment, and training approaches for next year. I feel very good about it.

<i>Innovation</i>	Create opportunities and invite staff to pilot and “test and learn” different and new approaches to our instructional and non-instructional practices.	This is not a focus area for this year given other priorities that took up more capacity to address.
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### **Strategic Plan Updates**

Two MWA Board members and I are working with MWF executive leadership and MWF Board members on a steering committee that is responsible for taking a critical look at the Strategic Plan.