



Marine Area Community School • MN District #4254
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
14189 Ostlund Trail North, Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047
July 15, 2017, 9:30AM

Board Meeting Minutes – Approved

Mission

Marine Area Community School will utilize the natural resources, history, arts, and civic stewardship of the community as a foundation for the study of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, art, and other curriculum subjects. The place-based learning environment will be student-centered, designed by teachers, and reinforced and supported by the local community.

1.0 Call to Order 9:30 a.m.

1.1 **Roll Call:** Lisa White, Kristina Smitten, Glen Mills, Jon Dettmann (by phone), Lisa Dochniak

2.0 Approve Agenda

2.1 Director Mills moved to approve the agenda. During the discussion, Co-chair White added an enrollment update to 5.7. Member Dochniak added a curriculum update. The agenda was approved.

3.0 Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

3.1 Co-chair White moved to approve the minutes. Board meeting minutes from June 17, 2017, were approved unanimously.

4.0 Community Comment

4.1 Marketing update: Enrollment marketing campaign is in the works. The board is currently working on a capital improvement campaign. We recently added the ability to take online donations.

5.0 Reports

5.1 Financial Report

5.1.1 **Fundraising update:** Director Dettmann reported that the school is now writing bigger checks to pay for required expertise and capital purchases. The appeal and fundraising efforts, and community support, are extremely important especially at this time. The appeal letter is going out the Marine residents, May Township residents, current families, and our full mailing list. also online. Kris Capra will be contacting local businesses who may be interested in contributing. Co-chair White will send a running total to Ele Anderson in order to publish a “thermometer” of progress so far online.

Director Mills reported that the Scandia Marine Lions are donating \$2500, and their foundation is donating another donating \$2500, in addition to the dictionaries, thesauruses, and copies of the constitution.

Joanna Rehorst reported on progress of a few grant opportunities, including Polaris and one to obtain Automated External Defibrillators (AED) devices.

5.1.2 **Line of credit approved:** The Marine Security Bank will be approving a line of credit for the school for \$140,000.

5.2 Staff Hiring

5.2.1 **Welcome Molly Kaliher (special ed teacher) and Jody Dick (third grade teacher):** Chair Smitten happily announced that Grove has hired Molly Kaliher as our special ed teacher, and Jody Dick as our second third-grade teacher. Both are very experienced, qualified, and gifted teachers.

5.2.2 **Positions posted for phy ed, music and paraprofessionals. Art specialist, nursing staff to be posted.** Chair Smitten mentioned that the plan is to have music 2 days a week, phy ed 2 days, and art 1 day per week. Director Dochniak and Co-chair White added that the art specialist time may still be in discussion with the teaching team. Chair Smitten pointed out that the specialist time is important in part because it provides prep time for the teachers. Director



Dochniak added that the curriculum is very supportive of the arts, and community experts will also be brought in (for example artists in residence). Chair Smitten added that some of the teachers want to teach art, so the art specialist position will need to be flexible.

Director Dochniak asked if there were plans to bring a media/library specialist on board. Chair Smitten remarked that the Marine Library Association has asked how they can help the school.

5.3 Facility Status

- 5.3.1 **Fire Marshall Inspection completed:** Chair Smitten announced that the emergency exit signs and panic hardware have all been updated, and that we have passed our inspection! The document has been sent to MDE, and we can now go ahead with our Lease Aid.
- 5.3.2 **Safety Plan:** Director Mills reported that the plan has been sent in with the documents to MDE for Lease Aid. Wash Cty Sheriff department will be coming out to review safety procedures and hours of operation. The teachers officially begin on August 14, and the meeting with the sheriff should happen then. The volunteer fire department will be doing a training at Grove too, perhaps during Fire Safety Week.
- 5.3.3 **Building modification begins 7/20:** Chair Smitten announced interior walls are being removed in the Clearing building for the 4th grade classroom. American Community Builders are doing the work.
Chair Smitten announced that the PTO will be able to have storage in the northwest room of the Sun building.
- 5.3.4 **Technology update:** Co-chair White reported that a contractor for Midco has been laying fiber for internet. The cable will be brought into the basement of Earth lodge on Monday, July 17. A different contractor will lay cable to connect the buildings, and a different contractor will install hardware.

- 5.4 **Food Service, Janitorial bids:** Chair Smitten reported that providers are coming in this coming week to provide bids for janitorial. There will be a conversation with the teaching team about the providers' expectations of "room prep" at the end of the day to help the services.

Chair Smitten has been working with the MDE on the food service proposals. On August 8, the contracted-with company will need to attend a training.

- 5.5 **PTO meeting:** Director Dochniak reported that there was a sizable group of parents at the PTO meeting, at which they discussed the general ideas of functions of a PTO, structure, etc. There will be an election for board members (a survey went out asking parents about their interest), with a meeting on Thursday, Aug 20, and the first official meeting in August. The meeting notes will be published online.

Parent Kris Capra noted that there will be a pancake breakfast at Sal's in Withrow on Sat July 22, 8-11 AM, and a carnival at Sal's on Saturday, August 12. Both are fundraisers for Grove.

Chair Smitten thanked the people who organized the Marine July 4 float.

- 5.6 **Logo Review:** Director Dettmann reported that Groves Academy accepted our proposal of adding a modifier to our name of "Grove," such as "River Grove" or "Emerald Grove." For the record, Grove Elementary does not agree that Groves Academy has ownership rights to the name "Grove." However, in order to avoid legal costs, Grove Elementary will agree to add a modifier to its name. Ultra Creative, the original design team, will be mocking up new name/logo suggestions. We hope to have the new name/logo approved by the next board meeting.

Chair Smitten asked if Groves Academy objected to our use of "Elementary" in the name. Director Dettmann reported that keeping it would be acceptable.

Chair Smitten was curious about people's opinions of the modifiers "River" or "Emerald." Director Dochniak said she like the history associated with the name "Emerald" (the land that Wilder is now on was once a farm owned by Morgan May using the name "Emerald"). Director Mills thought that "River" was more encompassing. Community member Jill Wilson suggested "Pine."

A special board meeting may be needed to approve the revised name/logo.

- 5.7 **Enrollment update:** Co-chair White reported that current enrollment is: 162, and will probably be at 165 at the end of the week. The budget is based on 165 students. There has been some discussion of

combining classes. The teaching team will discuss this idea. First and second are full, with
1: 25 officially enrolled, 5 on waitlist
2: 25 officially enrolled, 13 on waitlist
Tours continue.

- 5.8 **Curriculum Planning:** Director Dochniak reported that needing to get 3 bids for curriculum is posing problems. Co-chair White responded that as long as we are making the effort, the MDE is ok with decisions. Chair Smitten added that the CSP funds need to be spent by the end of September.

6.0 New Business

- 6.1 **Playground update:** Chair Smitten reported that Wilder needed to remove some old playground pieces. Grove hopes to place a couple of playground pieces this fall, and a couple more in the spring. The number and type of items may depend on long-range plans.
- 6.2 **Before/After care update.:** Chair Smitten mentioned the survey that went out. The committee will better understand the need when the results are in. The Forest Lake Y may be able to provide services.
- 6.3 **Back to school Open House dates set for Tuesday, August 22, 3-5, and Thursday, August 24, 5-7:** Director Dochniak announced that two open houses are scheduled to accommodate busy schedules and Grove's conditional use permit. The teachers will be in the classrooms. There will be another "curriculum night" a few weeks after school starts, tentatively set for Sept 7.
- 6.4 **Chair Smitten thanked the many library volunteers!** Many books have been donated and sorted. Director Dochniak added that some leveled libraries will need to be purchased for classrooms.

7.0 Authorizer Comments: None

8.0 Other

- 8.1 **Next Board of Directors Meeting: August 19, 2017 at 9:30AM at Wilder Forest**
- 8.2 **Minnesota Food Association will be having an open house today**
- 8.3 **Boy Scouts:** Troy and Pam Bradshaw, local Scout leaders for Troop/Pack 169, submitted a request for Grove to be the chartering organization for Troop/Pack 169 (it was Withrow school which is now closed). Chair Smitten said the board could make the decision at the next board meeting, and asked whether there is a Girl Scout troop in the area, and thought that if Grove is the chartering organization for one we should be for the other. The conditional use permit is a consideration.

9.0 Adjournment: 10:45 am