



Sussex Montessori School

Board of Directors

January 19, 2021

Board of Directors Present: Linda Zankowsky, Sean Steward, Lauren Connelly, Penny Short, Christine Gorowara, Rebecca Thomas, Jessica Crampton-Bradley

Others Present: Lisa Coldiron (Head of School), Michelle Hastie (Finance Director), Peter McClure (Director of Teaching and Learning), Mason Falligant (Lead Teacher), Carolyn Fuhrman (to take notes)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Two additions were made to the agenda:

1. Presentation of a Revised Budget added to the Finance Committee Report
2. Addition of Just Cause discussion added to the Executive Session

Motion to approve the agenda with the two additions made by Christine Gorowara and seconded by Sean Steward. The motion passed unanimously with no objections and no abstentions.

Montessori Moment

For tonight's Montessori Moment, Mason Falligant presented the Cosmic Nesting Boxes.

Consent Agenda

Minutes

Motion to approve the 12/15/20 Minutes was made by Christine Gorowara and seconded by Penny Short. The motion was approved unanimously with no objections and no abstentions.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

- Sean Steward gave an overview of the financials including Grants, costs of Phase I construction, and planning for Phase II and III
- Michelle Hastie presented the financials to date through 12/31/20 including operating income/expenses and federal grants
- Michelle clarified that excess transportation funds can be used for non-transportation but student focused expenses

- Motion to accept the Financial Report made by Sean Steward and seconded by Lauren Connelly. The motion passed unanimously with no objections and no abstentions.
- Michelle presented the Revised Budget going through the changes line by line
- There was some discussion around changes to legal and utility costs
- Motion to approve the Revised Budget for fiscal year 2021 was made by Sean Steward and seconded by Lauren Connelly. The motion passed unanimously with no objections and no abstentions
- Lauren Connelly reported on the first Citizens Budget Oversight Committee meeting that took place immediately preceding this Board meeting

Facility Committee

- Jessica Crampton-Bradley reported that the total spent so far is \$8,337,000, though she is waiting for confirmation of this number
- In looking for items to adjust, the most significant was the hourly rate of the resident inspector, which the committee is hoping to reduce
- Approximately \$900,000 was spent on the modular units, site work, and resident inspector
- Projected expense for Phase II is \$1,900,000 which includes four classrooms

Development Committee

- Received \$100,000 match from the Longwood Foundation
- Total raised to date is \$3,017,772.10
- Discussed various grants being pursued:
 - Cares for \$150,000
 - Discover Bank for \$100,000
- Virtual ribbon cutting for Phase I will be on 2/10/21 at noon via ZOOM. (Linda shared the video with the Board)

Guest Presentation

- Peter McClure presented “Basics of a Montessori Education” and then discussed the ways in which Sussex Montessori School is implementing these basics
- Peter and Chantel Janiszewski are getting ready to launch the Student Support Committee

Head of School Report

- Presented a request to allow the school to bring in some outside resources in the afternoon to give both students and teachers a mental health break
 - Music teacher twice/week
 - Chessmasters twice/week
 - Minds over Matter (mindfulness) twice per week
- A motion was made by Jessica Crampton Bradley and seconded by Rebecca Thomas that changes be made to the Opening School Plan to allow the school to bring Specials teachers for music and mindfulness on site. The motion was approved unanimously with no objections and no abstentions
- Enrollment – Have 177 applications for the 2021-22 school year with a lottery pull date of 1/27/21.
- Discussion of Health and Safety measures being followed

- Added an additional part-time school counselor for student support
- Teachers will complete Erin's Law training by the end of the school year

The Board moved to Executive Session

Executive Board Actions

- The following motion was made by Christine Gorowara and seconded by Jessica Crampton-Bradley: Due to the exceptional circumstances of this academic year, the Board accepts the withdrawal request of the 2 families, on behalf of 2 students, who submitted a letter by 01/19/2021, pending a records request from the receiving school or proof of homeschool. The motion passed unanimously with no objections and no abstentions.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jessica Crampton-Bradley, seconded by Penny Short and passed unanimously at 9:19 p.m.