



**SUSSEX
MONTESSORI**
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

**Sussex Montessori School
Board of Directors
December 21, 2021**

Board of Directors Present: Linda Zankowsky, Sean Steward, Christine Gorowara, Trish Hermance, Chantel Janiszewski, Rebecca Thomas, Lauren Connelly, Penny Short

Others Present: Lisa Coldiron (Head of School), Michelle Hastie (Finance Director), Peter McClure (Director of Teaching and Learning), Debra Smullin (Administrative Assistant), Trey Butterworth (Lead Teacher), Samantha Thomas (Lead Teacher), Apryl Small (Lead Teacher), Leslie Handy (Lead Teacher), Kim Oswinkle (Lead Teacher), Gabby DiBonaventure (Lead Teacher), Jennifer Passwaters (School Nurse), Anna Ornelas (Associate Teacher), Jonas Geneste (Associate Teacher), David Taylor (Associate Teacher), Ingrid Poffenberger (Associate Teacher), Cierra Cox (Associate Teacher), Eva Mills (Associate Teacher),

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Penny Short and seconded by Christine Gorowara.

The Motion passed unanimously with no objections and no abstentions.

Montessori Moment- None

Public Comment – None

Consent Agenda-

Minutes

A Motion to approve the 11/16/2021 Minutes was made by Christine Gorowara and seconded by Sean Steward. The motion was approved unanimously with no objections and with the abstention of Lauren Connelly due to absence.

Board Subgroup/Staff Listening Group Report- *Trish Hermance*

Trish Hermance discussed the two main concerns that the staff shared and explained the efforts already underway.

Student behavior/Staff safety concerns-

- Reset Room
- PD into Tier 3 behavior intervention
- Clarification of discipline protocols and polices

Special Education/English learner program-

- Evaluations/Audits/Support
- Protocols and Placement
- Making sure all Children's needs are met

Trish explained that all school level teams, leadership teams and outside experts are working very hard to resolve and implement changes.

A Motion to approve that the monthly HOS report, between now and June 2022 include updates on safety, student behavior, special education and EL support, Montessori professional learning and communication identified in the continuous improvement plan was made by Trish Hermance and seconded by Christine

Gorowara. The motion was approved unanimously with no objections and no abstentions.

Committee Reports-

Student Success Committee- Chantel Janiszewski and Peter McClure

- Chantel reviewed each report for Absences, Behavior, Incident levels, DIBELS, Math Diagnostic, Writing assessments (no data at this time) and DESSA
- Peter added that we need to keep in mind that the report is being compared to the national benchmark and we are looking for growth within the school.
- Questions from board members were addressed.

Finance Committee – Sean Steward and Michelle Hastie

- Sean Steward reported on the 12/14/2021 meeting of the Finance Committee.

A Motion to accept the financial report as presented was made by Sean Steward and seconded by Penny Short. The motion was approved unanimously with no objections and no abstentions.

- Michelle Hastie presented the financials to date through 11/30/2021 including transportation expenses, operating expenses, income, and federal grants

A Motion to approve the revised Transportation budget was made by Sean Steward and seconded by Chantel Janiszewski. The motion was approved unanimously with no objections and no abstentions.

Facility Committee- Barn Renovation Plans- Sean Steward (Jessica Crampton Bradley- Absent)

- Sean reviewed and the Estimated Capital Projections in the ARPA grant, USDA/PNC Bank obligations and the capital accounts

- Sean explained the plans for the barn renovation, future priorities for funds and potential future funds

Given limited current funds available, Sean asked the board to prioritize the board's goals for the next steps for the facility. A Motion that the board prioritize the renovation on the barn as proposed and deprioritize the funding of the modular units allowing for the procurement of bids to address safety related purchases such as cameras and fencing and use the carriage house for alternative settings was made by Trish Hermance and seconded by Lauren Connelly. The motion was approved unanimously and with no objections and no abstentions.

Lisa Coldiron-

- Lisa presented a Student Support Services plan on how we envision supporting our students. At that time, the board members asked Lisa questions and voiced any concerns they may have. Lisa will review the answers at our December meeting.

Development Committee – Linda Zankowsky

“Friends of Sussex Montessori School” Fundraising Committee is being formed and they are working towards any end of the year fundraising. The information on the committee has been posted to Boardable.

Covid Task Force – Penny Short

- Penny stated that the numbers for COVID cases is very high. We all need to be careful throughout the Holiday break.

Head of School Report – Lisa Coldiron

- School of Choice- we have 228 applications for next school year with 65 slots available
- Anita Mitchell is our new Food & Nutrition coordinator.

Executive Session- None

A motion to adjourn was made by Trish Hermance and seconded by Christine Gorowara and passed unanimously at 9:11 p.m.