

**CORNERSTONE MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2017 – 6:04 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Liz Coenen, Melissa Santrach, Liesl Taylor, Amanda Cina, Julie Richards, Jess Goff

Board Members Absent: Andrea Galdames

Other Attendees: Chris Bewell

Meeting Called to Order by Liz Coenen, Board Chair, at 6:03pm.

AGENDA

Public Comment Period: No public comments were offered.

Approval of Agenda & Declaration of Conflict of Interest

- Liz asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda;

Liz Coenen MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE EVENING’S AGENDA; Jess Goff SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Based on the approved agenda, Liz asked if anyone had any conflicts of interest with the evening’s agenda. None were disclosed.

Upper Elementary Student Presentations

Presentations topics included the:

Empire state building by I. Mohamed,

Mayans by D. Coenen,

Aztecs by J. Maldonado

Swedish Culture by N. Hansen-Kramer

Acceptance of Minutes from 1.17.17 Board Meeting

- Liz asked if anyone had changes to the January meeting minutes; corrections offered by Liz and updated by Chris.

JESS GOFF MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED FOR JANUARY 2017 MEETING; AMANDA CINA SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Governance- Liz Coenen:

•Board Recruitment- Board Member Check In

Updates:

- Melissa contacted five potential new people, 3 of which will meet with Liz/Melissa in March. They are interested in working with the board or in an advisory capacity
- Jess is in touch with Peter Radcliffe from the East Side Freedom Library
- Liesl discussed the refresher training she attended the previous weekend as it pertains to anti-biased education and professional training that is more culturally specific/relevant. Is AMI international and AMI USA specifically discussing anti-biased education in order to attract a more diverse staff? Debbie Leekeenan was the presenter at training. Liesl and Julie will connect around the topic and create a learning session for the board.

- Liesl reached out to Urban Ventures again, and Darian (Bush Fellow)
- Liz reached out to a couple people (Dan Bostrum) and also to an organization that helps other organizations prepare people to be board members.

Treasurer's Report - Melissa Santrach

Melissa says that our current ADM is 132.87 and we are budgeted at 133. We are tracking very closely to our revised budget that was approved at the January 2017 meeting.

Melissa shared two financial fact sheets Sandy created for board knowledge and recruiting purposes.

MELISSA MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JANUARY 2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS; JULIE SECONDED THE MOTION. TH MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Development and Communications Committee Report – Melissa Santrach

•The committee hasn't met yet. Meetings will begin the second Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Panera in Highland Park.

Board Chair Report – Liz Coenen

- Amanda will take March 2017 notes
- Liz will send the new self-reflection document out as it is board review time
- How do we transcribe institutional knowledge/history/memory in a way that isn't limited to governance, but includes the story, in an attempt to build sustainability and growth?

Head of School Report – Liesl Taylor

- Refresher Course update: Keynote was Ross Greene (author of Lost at School): underlying belief is that every child wants to do good but may be lacking the skills to do well
- Phyllis Pottish-Lewis gave 2-day session appropriate for elementary teachers focused on fostering interest in math through stories. She provided templates and albums for staff to use.
- The Bold Goal, AMI International Sunday session focused on increasing impact internationally
- Liesl will play interviews from students who have participate in groups from the children's mental health services

Director of Business Operations – Chris Bewell

- Still receiving applicants for next year—the numbers will still change next year
- Kindergarten is still overflowing
- Had first fire drill with new alarm system which was kept to under 2:30 minutes. The tornado drill will be up next in April.

Board Work Session

•Discussion: Formation of Advisory Board

Liz led this discussion focused on incorporating a group of people with skills we need in an advisory capacity, different from committee or board work. We would benefit from their expertise using less of their time.

Melissa drafted a charge for the board included in the February 2017 board packet

Liesl shared a strategy the MTC is using that includes sending a card to several people that includes three dates to choose from in order to do a tour and information session with Liesl along with a brief lunch (“A morning at Cornerstone”).

The governance committee will continue to work on this.

This led to a larger conversation about re-wording the CMES mission and vision.

Other Business

Next month’s (3.21.17) agenda

Adjourn

JULIE MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:30 PM; AMANDA SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted by Julie Richards, CMES Board Member

Next meeting is March 21, 2017 at 6 p.m.