

Metro Schools

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 25th, 2013 from 2:00 – 3:50pm

Location of Meeting: Metro Schools

Call to order: The Board Chair, Abdulkadir Abdalla, called to order the meeting at 2:00 PM on Friday, October 25th, 2013.

Board Members/Director Present or Absent:

| Name | Present/Absent |
|---|----------------|
| Abdulkadir Abdalla (Board Chair & Community Member) | P |
| Justine Bjergo (Secretary & Teacher) | P |
| Abdinor Warfah (Community Member and Parent) | P |
| Mohamed Mohamoud (Community Member) | P |
| Abraham Gadalla (Board Treasury) | P |

Guests and Community Members Present:

| Name | Position/Role |
|-------------------------|---|
| Robert Procaccini, CPA | Representative, School Business Solutions |
| Harrison Bachmann | Metro Schools Administrator |
| Emily Reis | Metro Schools Teacher |
| Felicia Ravelomanantsoa | Representative, BMO Harris Bank |
| Malini Wright | Representative, BMO Harris Bank |
| Ahmed Elmi | Metro Schools Director |

Metro Schools' Mission

Metro Schools College Prep is committed to academic excellence and closing the achievement gap by establishing rigorous goals for students, parents, teachers and the school. Metro Schools College Prep values cultural, religious, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity as central elements of a college preparatory education and provides a caring learning community that prepares students and staff to be responsible world citizens.

Metro Schools' Vision

The vision of Metro Schools is for our students to have a steadfast belief in their worth as human beings and that they will be prepared socially and academically to fulfill their aspirations

in a changing, challenging world community. We aim to be widely recognized as the most effective model for closing the achievement gap and preparing students for careers in the 21st century.

Call to Order

1. Agenda & Minutes:

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|-------------------|--|------------|--------------------|------------|---|-------------------|
| Subject | Agenda for October 2013 | | | | | |
| Motion | Motion to approve the Agenda for October 2013 | | | | | |
| Made by | Gadalla | | Seconded by | Warfah | | |
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board members individually review the agenda and minutes for the meeting | | | | | |
| Vote | | Yea | 5 | Nay | 0 | Abstain NA |
| Decision | Approval of September minutes and October meeting agenda | | | | | |

2. Bills and Financials:

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|-------------------|--|------------|--------------------|------------|---|-------------------|
| Subject | Financials and Enrollment | | | | | |
| Motion | Approve bills and financials for September | | | | | |
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board members individually review the financial dashboard and payment register for the month YTD revenue: \$1,053,561.41 YTD expenses: \$600,411.27 YTD change in fund balance: \$453,150.14 Metro Schools is currently ahead of the targeted budget for the year There were no state payments in October due to the new payment system (16 payments to schools annually instead of 24) Upcoming payments from the state will be reduced due to having a higher projected ADM than actual ADM for the 2012-2013 school year Due to the surplus in funds currently in our accounts, this will not put Metro Schools into debt if we stay on our targeted spending budget. Metro Schools will open a line of credit in case of an emergency. | | | | | |
| Made by | Abdalla | | Seconded by | Gadalla | | |
| Vote | | Yea | 5 | Nay | 0 | Abstain NA |
| Decision | Approval of bills and financials for September | | | | | |

3. Revised Budget Update

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| Subject | Updates on the revised budget |
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Business Solutions Representative Robert explains that they are about 80% finished with the revised budget. They will finish with this budget by the next meeting. |

4. Line of Credit/Invitation of BMO Harris Bank

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|-------------------|--|------------|---|--------------------|---------|----------------|----|
| Subject | Applying for a line of credit through BMO Harris Bank | | | | | | |
| Motion | Allow Metro Schools administrators to work with BMO Harris Bank to apply for and open a line of credit | | | | | | |
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initial bank that Metro Schools was going to open a line of credit through has been taking a long time and has still not come up with any sort of approval/proposal for the line of credit, so Metro Schools would like to apply for a line of credit through BMO Harris Bank Felicia and Melini (Representatives from BMO Harris Bank) explain the process necessary to opening a line of credit. The board needs to approve Metro Schools opening a line of credit through BMO Harris Bank before the paperwork can be turned in to start the line of credit application process. As soon as the necessary paperwork can be processed, Metro Schools can move forward in opening a line of credit | | | | | | |
| Made by | Abdalla | | | Seconded by | Gadalla | | |
| Vote | | Yea | 5 | Nay | 0 | Abstain | NA |
| Decision | Approval for Metro Schools administrators to work with BMO Harris Bank to apply for and open a line of credit. | | | | | | |

5. Audit Updates

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|-------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Subject | Updates on the current audit of Metro Schools | | | | | | |
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Business Solutions is waiting on Monarch and Minnehaha Transportation companies to provide additional information about last year's transportation contracts. This information needs to be turned in to finish the audit. Metro Schools admin. team will also be updating MARSS to reflect the current student ADM. The audit report should be available by the next board meeting. | | | | | | |

Director's Report

1. MARSS update

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|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Subject | MARSS update | | | | | | |
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including the recently expelled students, Metro Schools currently has 265 active students. | | | | | | |

2. Academic Updates

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| Subject | Updates on the academics |
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All NWEA fall testing is finished There are more standardized tests coming up. Admin. team would like to consider purchasing a computer-based reading program that will help prepare students for these tests and future academics. |

3. Technology Updates

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| Subject | Updates on technology |
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projectors have been purchased and installed into classrooms. |

Old Business

1. Transportation Updates

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| Subject | Updates on the transportation of the school |
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mini-van was purchased for \$4,500. It has been very helpful in transporting general education students (especially when the bus broke down). In the future, it would be ideal to purchase a second minivan. |

New Business

1. New Policies

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| Subject | New School Lottery Policy |
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Metro Schools admin. team is working on creating a new lottery style enrollment policy. This policy will be introduced at the next board meeting. |

2. Elementary Learning Partnership

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|-------------------|--|--------------------|---------|------------|---|
| Subject | Metro Schools partnering with the Elementary Learning Daycare Center next door | | | | |
| Motion | Approval for a partnership with Elementary Learning | | | | |
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be beneficial for Metro Schools' students and staff to have a partnership with the Elementary Learning Daycare Center to provide child care for students and staff with children. Elementary Learning also provides an educational afterschool program for students up to age 13. This could boost enrollment and help currently enrolled students and families. | | | | |
| Made by | Abdalla | Seconded by | Gadalla | | |
| Vote | | Yea | 5 | Nay | 0 |
| Decision | Approval for a partnership with Elementary Learning. | | | | |
| | | Abstain | | | |

3. Parents meeting with the board

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|-------------------|--|--------------------|---------|
| Subject | Two students (and families) meeting with the board to appeal their recent expulsions. | | |
| Motion | Appeal expulsions for two students | | |
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 4 students recently expelled from Metro Multicultural College Prep High School due to their involvement in bullying and fighting. • Two students (along with their families) have come to the board meeting to appeal their expulsion. • Board members discuss what criteria must be true in order for a student to be expelled from Metro Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is it racially motivated? ○ Is the student an imminent threat to staff/students? ○ Have there been prior similar offenses created by this student? ○ Has a due process been followed in expelling this student? • After addressing these questions with the school director, Mr. Elmi, it is decided that Student 1 appealing his expulsion does not meet the above criteria. It is then decided by the board that this student's appeal will be approved and he may return to school for quarter two, under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student must write a 5 page apology letter to those effected by the fight ○ Student must be put on strict probation for two weeks after returning to school ○ Student must meet with the admin. team and come up with a plan for how to stay on track and what consequences will happen if there are any future incidents ○ Student must attend mediation with other students involved in the fight • Student 2 appealing their expulsion arrives and the board members asks Mr. Elmi the same questions as listed above to determine if this student has been rightfully expelled. The student may meet some of the criteria for expulsion but it is decided that there was not enough of a due process for this students appeal to be denied. Student 2 will also have to follow the above conditions in order to return to school. • Both students who have appealed their expulsion will return to school to pick up their missing work on Wednesday, October 30th. Students will return to school and start the re-entry process on Monday, November 4th (The first day of quarter 2). | | |
| Made by | Abdalla | Seconded by | Warfah |
| Vote | | Yea | 5 |
| | Nay | 0 | Abstain |

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| Decision | Two expulsion appeals will be granted, under the conditions listed in the 'discussion'. |
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4. Board Members Pictures

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| Subject | Board Members need to take pictures for the school website |
| Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pictures were taken of board members and will be used for the school website. |

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 by Abdulkadir Abdalla, the board chair.