

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 26, 2017, from 2:04PM -3: 11 PM

Location of Meeting: Metro Schools, Room 105

- I. **Call to order:** The Board Chair, Abdulkadir Abdalla, called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM on Friday, May 26, 2017<sup>s</sup>

II. **Board Members Present or Absent:**

Name	Present/Absent
Abdulkadir Abdalla (Board Chair & Community Member)	P
Mohamed Mohamud (Vice Chair & Community Member)	A
Aila O'Loughlin (Board Treasury &) Teacher	P
Megan Ormseth (Community Board Member)	P
Osman Salah Samatar (Parent Board Member)	P
Mohamed Warsame (Teacher Member)	P

III. **Guests and Community Members Present:**

Name	Position/Role
Ahmed Elmi	School Director of Metro Schools
Robert Procaccini, CPA	Finance Representative (Dieci School Finance, LLC)
Kellein curt	School legal counsel (participated on the phone)

### 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.

- IV. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest:** A quorum was established and no conflicts of interest was declared.
- v. **Public Comments:** There were no any public comments

## VI. **Approval of Consent Agenda:**

The April Board Meeting agenda minutes were approved unanimously by Metro Board of Directors. Abdulkadir moved the motion to approve both the Minutes and agenda, and Warsame seconded it. However, prior to this vote, it was determined that Aila's name was inadvertently marked absent on the last Board Meeting Minutes in which she was present. Therefore, a motion was adopted to make that change making Aila's name marked as present on April Board Meeting Minutes. Megan moved this motion, seconded by Aila. Another motion, the electronic depository designation was unanimously approved by the board. Abdulkadir moved it, and was seconded by Aila as well.

## VII. **Action Items**

Monthly financials for April was presented by Robert. Robert explained in detail the overall financial situation of the school which he thought was in good condition. He mentioned though that the food and transportation costs went up a little and further explained the expected lost after the school is over.

**On the Budget for 2017/2018**, Elmi discussed the increased school expenditure that is expected and he attributed this surge to the purchase of the newly acquired chrome books, the moving expenses as well as the expected hiring of new teachers and other school employees. He mentioned that this expense could balloon to \$150,000. Even though the school's fund balance takes a hit as costs surge, Robert expounded to the board that the school's financial outlooks and budget will remain healthy as long as the projected enrolment stays between 300-330 students.

Elmi further elaborated on the expected jump in the school's operating cost by stating that the school's anticipation in doubling up middle school classes and their teachers. He, however stated that the number of transportation vehicles such as buses or minivans will remain as they are for now, but left open the possibility that these numbers could be increased due the projected growth of the school enrollment in the years ahead. Abdulkadir, looking at the high cost associated with the school transportation asked Mr. Elmi why the school had not considered buying buses one at a time every year in order for the school to save money and be self-sufficient resource-wise in the long haul. Elmi left the impression that this would be a good idea worth exploring in the future. The board then moved to approve the financials for April unanimously. Osman moved the motion, seconded by Aila.

**On the proposed enrollment growth**, Mr. Warsame raised a question as to the reasoning of the proposed contract amendment. Mr. Elmi also conveyed a question raised by David regarding the board's capacity to serve a bigger role in advancing these agendas. Both of these questions were addressed in the meeting separately as Elmi explains to the board that he had wanted to amend his previous contract with the school authorizer in order to meet the school's increased demand for growth. It was determined that the board had in fact had the capacity to observe, direct and focus community-wide concerns and values that best support student achievement and community needs. Finally, Elmi presented his plan for the enrollment growth. He stated that the school was projecting a continued growth over the next several years. As evidenced from the number of students in the waiting list, and the general fervor for the new building among the community members, Elmi said he would propose the board to commit to this projected growth by approving the school's request to amend our contract with our authorizer to help with the higher expected enrollment number. The board, having listened to Mr. Elmi's presentation on the anticipated growth and the rationale of the contract amendment with Audubon, was thereby able to grant a motion to amend the previously agreed upon enrollment cap with Audubon. This motion was moved by Abdulkadir, seconded by Aila, and unanimously approved by the board with their signatures.

## VIII. Reports, Discussion Items and Updates

- A. **Academic/EE /Curriculum and Technology updates:** Elmi discussed the school's emphasis in being environmentally sound. Elmi further added that, due to the environmentally sound and awareness campaign the school adopted, "our school's utility bill is at the lowest it has been in two years". He also told the board that the school will be more technologically oriented next year and that the staff will have training on how to use technology to help engage students better. An overview of the recent MCA assessment was distributed to the board and upon further review, the board decided to wait for the final assessment results from the state before discussing on its merits.
- B. **Facility update:** Construction of the facility is going smoothly as planned. More updates are coming as we inch closer to the proposed relocation of the school.
- C. **Staffing update:** Elmi discussed the current staff and the possibility of hiring more as we get closer to our impending move to the new facility.
- D. **Graduation:** Elmi discussed how happy the students were in completing their high school education. All in all, 53 students graduated successfully from high school. Graduation clips should be available shortly on school website and our Facebook.
- E. **Pay Scale:** Elmi talked about the issues he had had with respect to determining proper pay scale for the school's employees. Abdulkadir reminded Mr. Elmi of his authority in determining through his acquired knowledge and expertise in making sure that he's willing to pay competitive salary to keep staff members whose contribution to the school is paramount to its success. Elmi suggested the board elect a subcommittee that brings its pay scale recommendations back to the board after doing some research on what other schools similar to us are doing to retain their staff salary-wise.

IX. **Adjourned:** 3: 11 PM. Next Regular Board Meeting: 2:04 p.m., May 26, 2017, Room-105