

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 25th, 2018, from 2:03 PM –3: 49 PM

Location of Meeting: Metro Schools, Room 105

I. Call to order: The Board Chair, Abdulkadir Abdalla, called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM on Friday, December 8th, 2018

II. Board Members Present or Absent:

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

III. Guests and Community Members Present:

Name	Position/Role
Ahmed Elmi	School Director of Metro Schools
Abdiweli	High School dean
Kellein curt	School legal counsel
David Greenberg	Audubon-Director of center school authorizing
Guest with David Greenberg	Audubon
Laura Lucerelli	Teacher
Trudy Suleiman	Administration
Kelly Miller	Teacher
Osman Mohamud	Teacher
Saad Nooh	School employee

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 conflict of interest was declared.

V. Public Comments:

Elmi stated that a congregation of Somali language experts on the current state of Somali literacy will be held at Hadhwanaag restaurant in Minneapolis.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda:

- **December Board Meeting Minutes**

The board approved the December Board Meeting Minutes by a unanimous consent after Meghan moved it and Warsame seconded it.

- **February Board meeting agenda**

The following additions to the agenda were made: A new board member to be discussed, and Metro Schools' director report. After the discussion, the board unanimously approved the addition of Mohamed Gudal to the board. Mr. Gudal is a parent whose two of his kids attend at Metro Schools College Prep. Also the agenda for February board meeting was approved by the board unanimously. Both of the above motions were moved by Warsame for approval and Mohamed seconded it.

VII. Action Items

- **November Financials:** Robert presented the financial dashboard for Metro Schools. He stated that the financial situation of the school was good. There are 375 students at the school, but the school is paid at 365 students. As of January 2018, the total revenues were \$2782,843 compared to a budgeted amount for \$5,475,765 which represents 51% of the fiscal year 2018 Adopted Budget. As for expenses, Robert said that as of January 2018, the total expenditures were \$3,178,932 compared to budgeted amount of \$5,349,740 which represents 59% of the FY18 Adopted Budget. The cash flow is projected to increase as the state will now be helping the school with the lease aid after it got approved recently. There is always a holdback of 10% which can be estimated at \$290,440 per year based on several factors. There was a concern made by some in the board about staff members using their own credit cards to help the school with purchases. Elmi stated that the school's credit card had a \$10,000 limit and sometimes, due to school's need to acquire supplies for the school, teachers are advised to use their credit cards and the school reimburses for any incurred expenses they must verify. Abdalla

suggested that as long as the staff members can verify their purchases by producing receipts, then it is important to not hamper the teachers' ability to buy supplies for their classrooms. However, Elmi added that the school had already decided to stop using staff credit cards for big purchases for the time being until after the school has found a way to increase its credit card limits. Robert and Elmi will help the school increase its credit limit. Abdalla moved the motion to approve the financials and was seconded by Mohamed. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Reimbursement Policy:** Elmi concluded by telling the board that, "by next board meeting, the school will have drafted a reimbursement policy".
- **ELL models:** Ms. Laura talked in length about the current situation of the ELL program and the state mandated tests the students undertake to gauge their level of proficiency. She stated that this year's ACCESS results are still unavailable and that is one of the reasons they could not provide data about student growth to Audubon. She said that after this ACCESS test, and they retest again next time, then they will have a base with which to compare the achievement growth the students have attained.
- **New Board member:** Mr. Gudal, having been voted and approved to become a member of the board, is now diligently seated and taking part in the important decisions concerning to the school's overall situations.
- Abdalla requested a new agenda and at the same time moved the motion to add an agenda item that moved to allocate 150,000 for legal fees should the board and school need to defend themselves from defamation. Megan abstained, the rest of the board, however voted in favor of the motion after Abdalla moved it and Warsame seconded it.
- **Reports, Discussion Items and Updates**
- **School Board Training Plans and Updates:** Elmi stated that the school board training will take place in the school conference room on Saturday 3rd, 2018.
- **Reauthorization Updates-Audubon:** Elmi presented the school's report and its feedback regarding the Audubon's report which was very critical of the school's overall effectiveness. A copy of the report was presented to the board and to David from Audubon.
- David Greenberg discussed the Audubon's decision to offer the school a two-year probationary term which included very specific academic and environmental education performance goals that if not met within the first year, the school is required to enter into a community-driven turnaround process in year two or the school will close the end of the contract term. The board spoke about the content of the letter they had obtained from Audubon and made it clear they didn't appreciate the language. They also wondered why a school that was showing improvements in academics and doing great financially would be subjected to such harsh criticisms. They overwhelmingly opposed to Audubon's findings and asked to have a meeting with Audubon board members to see if the contract could be amended. They also wondered why Audubon had set caps on Metro School's enrollment when they knew the school had just moved into a bigger building to accommodate more students that had been on the waiting list for a while. David admitted that the school had made tremendous academic improvement over the last year, but needed to improve its commitment to environmental literacy. David used Dugsi Academy as an example as to how a community-driven turnaround process can be accomplished. Abdalla said that it would be unfortunately for such comparison as Metro School is not comparable with such a School.

IX. **Adjourned:** 3: 49 PM. Next Regular Board Meeting: 2:01 p.m., March 25th, 2018, Room-105