

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, March 17, 2018, from 1:02 PM –2:13 PM

Location of Meeting: Metro Schools, Room 105

**I. Call to order:** The Board Chair, Abdulkadir Abdalla, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM on Saturday 17, 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	P
Megan Ormseth (Community Board Member)	P
Mohamed Gudal (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
Osman Mohamud (Teacher)	
Kellein curt	School legal counsel
Osman Mohamud	Teacher

**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 declared.

**V. Public Comments:** There was no public comments

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

The agenda for the Special Board Meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 was approved by the board unanimously. Both of the above motions were moved by Warsame for approval and Mohamed seconded it.

## **VII. Action Items**

Some board members suggested that it would be a good idea for the Audubon board members to come and interact with us on how together we can better serve our students by discussing the ongoing reauthorization process with the school and how they can contribute to ease some of the apprehensions and concerns that might have been exacerbated by misunderstandings. Therefore, a formal invitation to Audubon board is agreed upon to be sent out. Mohamed moved the motion, seconded by Meghan, and the rest of the board voted in favor of the motion unanimously.

## **VIII. Reports, Discussion Items and Updates**

**Ahmed Elmi** discussed the options available for Metro Schools to continue to exist under the sponsorship of Audubon. He sought advice from the board on which direction the school should be going as far as the options made available to the school by Audubon are concerned. The board wondered why would Audubon place a cap on the number of students enrolled at Metro Schools College Prep. They mentioned that one of the reasons compelled the school to find a better building was to accommodate for more of our community's children. The board thought it would be a good idea to renegotiate with Audubon in order to either scrap off the cap or increase the limit to 450 students. Elmi was especially concerned about the rooms on the second floor being taken over by Prodeo if Metro School's fails to increase its enrollment as suggested by the landlord.

**Elmi** added that the morale of school personnel was very high and that our students were happy with the quality of education they receive and the new building with its gym. Several questions were raised by board members regarding the Audubon's analysis of the school academics and EE performances. The board members acknowledged this year's environmental education program as being more than adequate compared to previous years, but still wanted to enhance it so we can strengthen our students' environmental awareness while meeting our contractual obligations with Audubon

**Mohamed:** Why on earth are we here discussing our failure to not meet our environmental goals. The school's failure to not meet environmental literacy goals did not sit well with the board members. They asked Mr. Elmi to invite Katia to the next board meeting in order to explain what went wrong.

**Meghan** indicated that teachers need to come to the meetings, especially the education specialists whose job it is to implement the environmental goals. Mr. Elmi insisted that academic personnel had promised him they would be able to meet these goals next year. Meghan added that "a measureable academic data for EE goals should be spelled out". Meghan also wondered what the line of communication between the teachers and board members was. The board needs to interact with teachers and invite them to the meetings and hear from them occasionally.

**Warsame** was critical of the school's lack of proper environmental instruction for the first two years of the three-year contractual agreement with Audubon. "I can understand if we

would be struggling with academics due to some obvious factors, but I cannot comprehend how we could not meet a very attainable goal of teaching environmental literacy and compiling data about it. Warsame agrees with the rest of board members that whoever was responsible for implementing these goals need to come to the meeting and show us their road map as to how they will successfully adopt measures to incorporate EE into the curriculum thus satisfying Audubon's contractual agreement with the school.

**Warsame as well as Mohamed** suggested we should not run away from Audubon, instead we need to fix any problems we may be having, including but not limited to the incorporating of verifiable environmental literacy program into the school curriculum. They noted that Audubon could be confronted with some of the shortcomings they have written about the school, but not having met the EE goals was unacceptable for our school. The school needs to develop a structure for EE program, while seeking advice from Audubon so that we don't have the same problem of not having enough data about the program next time.

**Abdalla:** Katia needs to come to the meeting since she is the academic dean and talk about the academics and the EE program to assuage some of the concerns raised by board members. She needs to present to the board about the current situation of the school academics while also elaborating on the structures in place to fulfill the EE goals in the school for the coming years.

IX. **Adjourned:** 2:13 PM. Next Regular Board Meeting: 2:00 p.m., March 30, 2018, Room-105