

Montessori Regional Charter School
September 14, 2005

Board Members Present:

Mary Burrows	Marty Maly	Rob Petro
Laurie Rogan	Tracy Wilczynski	Annette Marshall
Mike Wehrer	Roanna Chen	Gerry Barron (7:55 pm)
Laura Mott	Beth Iadeluca	

Board Members not in attendance: Susan Bert

Also in attendance: Lydia Cerroni, Heidi Sheehan, Tom Pendleton Esq.,
Tania Bogatova, Chris Marsh, and Jane Binder

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Laura Mott,
President, leading the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment: Tania Bogatova, Chris Marsh

Tania Bogatova and Chris Marsh, representing the 7-8 grades Charter Board updated the Board on the progress of the 7-8 Grade Charter Movement –Discovery Charter School (DCS). Several questions were raised regarding the relationship between MRCS and DCS, specifically: Can DCS assume that they can contract for administrative services with MRCS without jeopardizing their charter application? These questions were posed to Tom Pendleton, attorney for the MRCS, who stated that from a legal standpoint the two separate charters must remain separate in that there must be distinct governing boards and distinct founding committees. However, DCS can contract for services from MRCS and other relationships can be developed with MRCS just like other relationships with other entities like EarthForce, Gannon University, etc.

Further, MRCS can form an ad hoc committee to explore the relationship between MRSC and DCS.

- A. Motion to form an Ad Hoc Committee headed by Laurie Rogan to explore the relationship between MRCS and DCS.

Moved By: Mike Wehrer

Seconded by: Beth Iadeluca

Yes: 11

No: 0

Absent: 2

Chris Marsh presented a Break even analysis of DCS based on curriculum committee assumptions. The current breakeven analysis projects that DCS would need enrollment of 60 student for the first year to reach break even. There was discussion as to what expenses might be reduced and how grants or partnerships might supplement the budget. Tom Pendleton commented that the charter application must include a break even budget.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from August 10, 2005 meeting not available. Marry Burrows will provide minutes and board will defer approval to October board meeting.

PTO Report – First PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 28th, 2005 at 7:00 pm.

Board appointments – Laura Mott stated that there is a Board opening to be filled and asked if there were any candidates. Laurie Rogan suggested that she would approach Delthia Durah to see if there is any interest in serving. Mike Wehrer suggested Leesi Warren, however, she is still on MRCS payroll and serves as a substitute in the office, so is ineligible.

CEO Report –

- A. Enrollment numbers – Current Total at 136 – One opening in Kindergarten that could be filled.
 - B. Excellent feedback from parents on Phase In childcare provided
 - C. New Hires for Board Approval:
 - 1. Michelle Roberts – Full time Special Ed
 - 2. Jonilee Hlusko – Part time – Art
 - 3. Adrienne Maitland – Part Time – Music
 - 4. Kristy Leighton – Part Time - Teaching Assistant
- (Note: Motion to Approve under HR Committee)

Discussion regarding the best way to introduce new staff to Board. Suggestions ranged from introducing new hires at Board meeting to posting picture and bio on web site.

Further Discussion about communication with Board members – Request to e-mail "Friday Flyer" newsletter to all Board members.

Discussion about communication from Board to MRCS families. There was a suggestion to publish Monthly Board minutes on the Website and to publish minutes in the PTO newsletter – *Montessori Monthly*.

- D. Act 48 Provider Status – MRCS is now provider of continuing education hours. Teachers are required to complete 180 hours within 5 years. This will save teachers time and money and will enable teachers to attend training that is directly relevant to our curriculum and setting.
- E. Intermediate Unit Contract - Investigating issue related to proposed charges for PennData/Membership mandated report. These charges will be exempt from contract until we determine if there should be a separate charge.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee

- A.** Laura Mott reported that Building and Acquisition Committee will now be under Executive Committee. The current status of building acquisition negotiations is that MRCS has made a 6 month option to buy at \$450,000. We anticipate a counter offer by 5 pm, Tuesday, September 20th. They did state that they do want to sell the building.
- B.** After School Activities – To date we have received no notification of after school activities. Discussion about liability for after school activities.
- C.** Liaison to MCHE Board – Beth Iadeluca volunteered to be a liaison to MCHE Board for an additional line of communication.

Finance Committee

- A.** Financials – Beginning October, Heidi Sheehan will e-mail financials to Treasurer the Friday prior to the Board Meeting and the Treasurer will e-mail financials to Board by mid-day prior to the Board meeting.

- B.** Heidi Sheehan reports that she received an e-mail guarantee of \$45,000. per PDE
- C.** Heidi Sheehan reports that auditors will be at next Board meeting to present draft copies of 04-05 financials.

Motion to Approve checks paid as presented

Moved by: Laurie Rogan Seconded by Roanna Chen

Yes – 12 No – 0 Absent -1

Human Resources Committee

- A.** Proposal to offer Part Time employees the option of buying insurance benefits at full cost.

Motion to approve offering Part Time employees the option to buy benefits From MRCS

Moved by: Laura Mott Seconded by: Laurie Rogan
Yes: 12 No: 0 Absent: 1

Motion to approve New Hires as presented by CEO

Moved by: Laura Mott Seconded by: Tracy Wilczynski
Yes: 12 No: 0 Absent: 1

New Business

- A.** Annette Marshall made a request on behalf of Earth Force. She is requesting that MRCS act as the sponsoring school for a grant through the Service Learning Corporation. This would involve receiving the grant monies and depositing them in to our accounts and then sending a like check to Earth Force. Laura Mott said the Board would get back to her on this issue.

- B. Mary Burrows made a request to post a notice about the National Downs Syndrome Awareness and Acceptance month and to send home brochures to all students about the Buddy Walk to be held Saturday, October 1st at Gravel Pit Park in North East, PA.

Old Business

None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm

Note: next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2005 at 7:00 pm