

Montessori Regional Charter School
December 14, 2005

Board Members Present:

Mary Burrows	Rob Petro	Laurie Rogan (7:20)
Tracy Wilczynski	Annette Marshall (7:09)	Laura Mott
Marty Maly	Gerry Barron (7:09)	M. Wehrer

Board Members not in attendance: Susan Bert, Beth Iadeluca, Roanna Chen

Also in attendance: Lydia Cerroni, Heidi Sheehan, Tom Pendleton Esq., Jill Duncan, and Jane Binder

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Laura Mott, President, leading the Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda modified to accommodate Solicitor, Tom Pendleton's need to leave early.

- A. **Lease Renegotiation** - Tom Pendleton had a discussion with Sumner Nichols, attorney for MCHE Board, regarding the renegotiation of the lease and the potential for purchasing the building. Attorney Nichols acknowledged that the proposals have been based solely on MCHE financial needs and ability to survive as an entity. Tom Pendleton responded that as a public school, we are committed to fiduciary responsibility. Further, MRCS was surprised to see in the MCHE financials that they reported a \$50K surplus in fiscal year 2005 but projected a \$26K loss for fiscal 2006. Attorney Sumner attributed this to the addition of 2 new programs that were operating at a loss. Mr. Pendleton noted that MRCS **did not** request that these programs be added.

Tom stated that MCHE has little incentive to sit down and negotiate with us. He suggested that we hold the disputed amount (difference between amount for furnished space and unfurnished space) in an escrow amount until they "come to the table". The difference is about \$2,000 calculated from the beginning of the current lease period (June 2005).

Motion to hold disputed amount in amount of rent in a special, separate account:

Moved By: Marty Maly Seconded by: G. Barron

Yes: 8 No: 0

Tom Pendleton left at 7:20 pm

B. **Public Comment:** None

C. **PTO Report:** None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from November 9, 2005 meeting were read and accepted as amended:

p. 3, B. Lease Renegotiation paragraph 3 "...It is a conflict of interest for us to subsidize a private school"

Motion to accept November Board Minutes as amended:

Moved by: M. Burrows Seconded by: M.A. Marshall

Yes: 9 No: 0

Susan Bert has officially resigned from the Board due to other commitments.

L. Mott asked for recommendations for new Board members. A suggestion was made to ask Charlie Witchcoff. Laura Mott will approach him.

Gerry Barron has someone in mind to approach and will report back at next month' meeting.

CEO Report –

- A.** Open House – Schedule for Monday February 6th 6:30 – 9:30 pm and Sunday, February 12th 1:30 – 3:30
Discussion regarding dates of MCHE open house. Should it be a joint open house?
Ad for open house – Change from 2005 ad to reflect a teaching tool – Philosophy of Montessori – Highlight *free* public school status
Should there be a commonly asked questions (FAQ) sheet?

There was further discussion about the relationship between MCHE and MRCS and the fact that there was now an entirely new board. Rob Petro made a phone call to obtain the names of the new executive board members. President – Eric Hayes

Vice President – Olga Antipovitch

Secretary – Sala Cox

Treasurer – Pete Tellers

The Board expressed hope that this new MCHE board would provide a more cooperative environment between the schools.

- B.** Personnel – Adrienne Maitland will be leaving at the end of December to move to Harrisburg. Applicants being interviewed next month.
- C.** Sarah Reed is in the process of interviewing potential school psychologist interns for 2006-2007 school year. The question was raised as the services that have been provided during this year. Lydia will provide a report at the January board meeting of services provided by Melanie Pearl, the current School Psychologist.
- D.** Training – John Mott will be providing an on line training program for teachers.

Financials

- A.** Direct Payments now from Erie and Harborcreek
- B.** \$125,000 in money market account.
- C.** All reports are in – Title One Funding in Jan '06
- D.** Budgeting cash flow to avoid summer cash flow crunch. Based on current status, projecting \$180,000 in cash at beginning of summer
- E.** Implementation grant – Requesting reallocation of funds to use money allocated for elevator and windows (approx \$160,000) to now be used for new classroom materials.

Motion to approve bills paid as detailed in financial report

Moved by: R. Petro Seconded by: Tracy Wilczynski

Yes: 9 No: 0

Committee Reports: Executive Committee

A. Building Update

YMCA has been demolished and the thought is that the property will now go on sale.

Discussion on various properties – both lots and buildings that may be available for sale including, but not limited to, vacant lots on Lancaster Road, the Jewish Center, the Armory, vacated Catholic Schools and property on East 10th Street. L. Mott noted that we do have pre approval for \$4.5MM in financing.

B. Enrollment 2006-2007

Open Enrollment period will last for two weeks – from February 1st through February 15th 2006.

Enrollment Committee members – Mary Burrows and Roanna Chen (who will be asked after the meeting as she was not in attendance) and Lydia Cerroni.

New Business

A. After School Sports Program

Suggestion to poll MRCS parents to see if anyone would be interested in teaching an after school sport.

Old Business

A. Building Issues

Discussion regarding the continued documentation of building issues. There is a list that has been sent to MCHE and a list is kept on an ongoing basis in the office.

Motion to adjourn meeting:

Moved by: M. Maly

Seconded by: R. Petro

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm

Note: next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2006 at 7:00 pm