

SAPMS Board Meeting

November 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm via Google Meet.

MISSION

The Mission of St. Augustine Public Montessori School is to provide students with a learning culture grounded in Montessori philosophy and practice that inspires a love of learning and respect for self, others and the environment.

AGENDA

1) Roll call

Board Members:

Jason Ferrante, President
Andres Kerllenevich, Secretary
Tristan Alfant, Trustee
Kim MacEwan, Trustee

Others Present:

Diane Dodds
Rebekah Andreu
Amanda Shields
Cora Good
Monique Lyman
Tony Solorzano

2) Review of Public Notice

Notice was posted on the school calendar, the school website, and via email at 1:24 pm on November 14, 2023.

3) Meeting with Charter School Capital

DISCUSSION:

Tony Solorzano (who took over from Craig) from Charter School Capital. The company had a round of layoffs due to rising interest rates. Tony has been with Charter School Capital for 2.5 years, before that with an organization that ran childrens' science museums. He worked with schools finding capital for environmental programs. Charter School Capital changed name to Growth Schools. The company started buying schools' receivables and providing financing to the schools. Now they focus on providing growth capital to schools. Tony opened floor for questions. Many questions were asked and answered.

4) Approval of Minutes

MOTION:

Made by: Jason Ferrante

Seconded by: Andres Kerllenevich

Motion: To approve the minutes for the October 18, 2023 board meeting which were emailed to the board by Andres Kerllenevich.

Vote: All in favor.

Disposition: Approved.

5) Public comment on Agenda items

1. Cora Good asked if we asked for other schools that worked with Charter School Capital. Diane will ask Tony for schools as references.

6) President's Items

-- Contracts

DISCUSSION: Diane requested approval to give one teacher a \$1,200 raise for being promoted to lead guide. The raise keeps the total payroll within the number approved by the board for the fiscal year. The replacement employment agreement was sent to the board by Diane and reviewed by the board.

MOTION:

Made by: Jason Ferrante

Seconded by: Tristan Alfante

Motion: To approve the updated employment agreement presented to the board by Diane.

Vote: All in favor.

Disposition: Approved.

-- Services

DISCUSSION: Diane presented to the board a \$3,008.63 contract from VKA Security to run/bury new cables to fix intermittent problems with fire alarm system. Jason asked if Florida sales tax should be removed from contract. Diane will get sales tax removed.

MOTION:

Made by: Jason Ferrante

Seconded by: Tristant Alfante

Motion: To approve the Village Key contract in the amount of \$3,008.63 to run/bury new cables between buildings (after having sales tax removed if possible).
Vote: All in favor.
Disposition: Approved.

7) Director's report

DISCUSSION: Diane presented Director's report, went over upcoming events. Current enrollment 166 students consisting of 32 preschool and 134 district students. In January, the school will reach total 170 student goal. Finances are looking good. The annual fund is up to \$13,276 plus \$1,268 in donations.

8) Committee Reports

-- Financial Committee

DISCUSSION: Finances are good. Cash in the bank is \$243,979. Equity is \$312,943. Total October revenue is \$123,289, expenses of \$128,982, shortfall of \$5,693.

-- Fundraising Committee

DISCUSSION: Kim presented report. Kim updated talks with a grant writer. Volunteer requests are going out to Marker's Fest, sponsorships, stationary, etc.

-- Facilities Committee

DISCUSSION: Jason presented report. Campus cleaning took place last month. This month, the shed will be removed from the platform and a second shed will be added for the Odyssey of the Mind program. Diane gave a description of Odyssey of the Mind. One of two rolls of turf were sold which will finance installation of second roll of turf.

DISCUSSION: Regarding Charter School Capital, Andres said that he thought we should go to the first step of looking for a property, with no commitment. Other board members agreed.

MOTION:

Made by: Jason Ferrante
Seconded by: Andres Kerllenevich
Motion: To have Diane start process with Growth Schools (fka Charter School Capital) to start looking at properties (with no commitment or contract).
Vote: All in favor.
Disposition: Approved.

-- Community Outreach Committee

DISCUSSION: Jason presented report. Most effort is related to Maker's Fest and fundraising. School will have a float on December 2, 2023 parade handing out cards and candy canes. Each class has been given a raffle basket. Jason described Maker's Fest activities.

9) Other Board Business -- NONE.

10) Public comment on non-agenda items - NONE.

11) Adjournment

MOTION:

Made by: Jason Ferrante

Seconded by: Andres Kerllenevich

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Vote: All in favor.

Disposition: Approved.

Jason Ferrante adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm.

Minutes by: Andres Kerllenevich

Date approved: December 13, 2023