



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 7th, 2024 6:00 PM

500 E. Kelley's Rd, Woodland Park CO 80863

Library

Vision: Students prepared for success in a free society, promoting civic responsibility and contributing their talents in a flourishing republic by pursuing beauty, truth, and good.

Mission: Merit Academy will cultivate the minds and nurture the hearts of K-12 youth in the Ute Pass/Woodland Park region with instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue, employing honored foundations of classical education and Core Knowledge®.

I. PRELIMINARIES

- A. Call to order at 6:12 p.m.
- B. Roll call: Ledlie, Dill, Sekowski, Illingworth and Waggoner present
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Public Comment - none

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Illingworth moved to amend the agenda to remove approval of the 17 Jan 24, 23 May 24 and 19 Jun 24 meeting minutes, with a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Dill. In favor: Dill, Sekowski, Waggoner, Illingworth and Ledlie; opposed: None

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

The consent calendar was approved board as amended, with a motion by Ms. Waggoner to approve and a second by Mr. Ledlie. In favor: Dill, Ledlie, Sekowski, Illingworth and Waggoner; opposed: None

IV. PRESENTATION

New Minds Software was presented by Dr. Martin Kaufman as an innovative software tool to monitor and promote positive and negative behavior that Merit is going to pilot this year. Dr. Kaufman discussed that the software provides a real-time platform to input and data trend negative and positive behavior in the school and in the classroom. The ultimate goal of the software is to support improved learning environments at Merit for improved school experiences for students and staff. Automatic notifications are sent to parents for certain behavior events. Dr. Kaufman will begin the roll-out of beta testing prior to the beginning of the school year so all staff are comfortable with use of the software.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Report of Enrollment (GP) – There have been some minor fluctuations in student enrollment, which Dr. Pekron noted is fairly typical for the timeframe leading up to the beginning of the school year. Target enrollment for this school year is 530 students.

B. Report of Dress Code (AH) – The administration is making some adjustments to the dress code this school year, as well as creating accompanying visual displays to assist students in compliance with the dress code. Based on student feedback, the dress code is also going to adjust for 11th and 12th grades, to an option for “business casual.” Fridays dress code will continue with House colors, but only uniform polos are allowed.

C. Report of Facility Maintenance Updates (GP) - Painting is underway in phases throughout the building as well as other updates needed for the beginning of school, including a minor roof repair and some additional building maintenance updates to prepare for students.

D. Report of Updates to Staff Handbook (AK) – An updated staff handbook has been distributed to faculty and staff.

E. Report of Staffing (GP) - There are some continuous additions of faculty and personnel in the School of Grammar classrooms, as well as some upper classroom needs that still need to be filled.

F. Report of Added Process for Internal Investigation (AK) – Ms. Amy Kaufman discussed a revised process for internal investigations, including contemporaneous dated and signed written statements by any personnel relevant to the investigation, including an option of recording when appropriate.

G. Report of New Gossip Policy (AK) – Ms. Amy Kaufman discussed rollout of a new gossip policy designed to improve the culture and morale of school staff and students.

H. Report of Summary of Staff PD Week (RH) – Dean Hendrickson provided a discussion of next week’s agenda for staff PD in order to prepare for the school year.

VI. REPORTS

A. The Deans discussed that First Day School Supplies were delivered to the school, as well as activities surrounding changing Merit Academy’s postal address.

B. The Board is hosting a new staff luncheon next week; Ms. Sekowski is organizing luncheon details; the Board is also providing a tour on Aug 22 to an interested donor.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Ledlie moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing an individual student matter per CRS 24-6-402(4)(h), with a second by Ms. Waggoner, at 8:17 pm; in favor: Illingworth, Waggoner, Ledlie, Dill, Sekowski; opposed: none; at 9:44 p.m. Mr. Dill then moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing an individual student matter per CRS 24-6-402(4)(h), with a second by Ms. Illingworth, at 9:50 p.m.; in favor: Ledlie, Illingworth, Sekowski, Waggoner, Dill; opposed: none; motion to adjourn from the executive session at 9:58 p.m. by Mr. Ledlie, with a second by Ms. Waggoner, in favor: Ledlie, Illingworth, Dill, Sekowski,

Waggoner; opposed: none; Ms. Waggoner then moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the headmaster's (superintendent) contract per matter per CRS 24-6-402(4)(e)(2)(B), with a second by Ms. Sekowski, at 9:59 p.m.; in favor: Waggoner, Sekowski, Dill, Ledlie, Illingworth; opposed; none; motion to adjourn at 10:17 p.m. from executive session by Ms. Sekowski, seconded by Mr. Dill; in favor: Sekowski, Dill, Illingworth, Ledlie, Waggoner; opposed: none.\

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Waggoner moved to approve the headmaster's (superintendent's) contract as discussed in executive session, seconded by Ms. Illingworth. In favor: Illingworth, Waggoner, Ledlie, Sekowski, Dill; opposed: none.

IX. ADJOURN

Motion by Mr. Ledlie to adjourn at 10:19 p.m., seconded by Ms. Waggoner. In favor: Ledlie, Dill, Sekowski, Waggoner, Illingworth. Opposed: None.