



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2025 6:00 PM
500 E. Kelley's Rd, Woodland Park CO 80863
Merit Academy 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 6:09 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. Sekowski moved to amend the agenda to remove approval of all meeting minutes, with a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Dill. In favor: Sekowski, Dill, Waggoner, Illingworth and Ledlie; opposed: none

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

The consent calendar was approved by the Board, with a motion by Ms. Waggoner to approve and a second by Mr. Dill. In favor: Waggoner, Dill, Ledlie, Sekowski, and Illingworth; opposed: none.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Revised Budget – CFO Leanna Tally presented the revised FY2025 to the Board. She discussed the decrease in Colorado per pupil revenue, effective January 1, 2025. She also discussed the integration of rural funding into PPR, which impacted the budget. She discussed that expenditures are down 6.4% or \$453,000, due to some position vacancies, favorable health insurance premium costs versus cash in lieu of elections. Other purchased services is also down approximately \$123,000, with contributing factors related to district buyback and decreased headcount for Aerolab. Total property costs are up \$66,000, including an external keying need and the cost of computer technology.
- B. Funding Updates – Discussion of possibility of rolling out a sponsorship program
- C. Security Badge System Update – Discussion of possibility of costs of a security badge system.
- D. Survey – Discussion of potential climate survey as a proactive tool going forward.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

Revised Budget – Motion by Ms. Waggoner to approve the revised budget with a second by Ms. Sekowski; In favor: Waggoner, Sekowski, Dill, Ledlie, and Illingworth; opposed: none. Ms. Waggoner moved to approve the corresponding Appropriation Resolution for FY 2025, seconded by Mr. Dill; In favor: Waggoner, Dill, Ledlie, Sekowski, and Illingworth; opposed: none. Mr. Dill moved to approve the second corresponding Use of Beginning Fund Balance Resolution, seconded by Ms. Waggoner; In favor: Dill, Waggoner, Ledlie, Sekowski, and Illingworth; opposed: none.

Survey - Ms. Waggoner moved to approve an employee survey by The Mettise Group, with a second by Ms. Illingworth; in favor: Waggoner, Illingworth, Dill, Ledlie, and Sekowski; opposed: none.

V. REPORTS

A. Dean Report –Dean Hendrickson discussed a positive and exciting first day back to school second semester this week, including a new House assembly this week. The school leadership plans to have House assemblies (for each House) for each of the remaining 5 months in the semester. The team is also working on various supports (like MTSS) to assist with transitions in the math curriculum, as well as a highlight of Ms. Montgomery and Ms. Bucher in an outstanding running professional development for the staff. Dean Hendrickson discussed that the school is ready to enter NWEA testing soon this semester. This Friday is the School of Grammar Honor Roll Assembly, with an Honor Roll Assembly on January 15th for Schools of Logic and Rhetoric. A prospective parent meeting is coming up soon as well. Dean Bucher discussed upcoming book studies for the staff, including *The Energy Bus* and *Row the Boat*.

B. Headmaster Report – Dr. Pekron is rolling out a 2024 Annual Report that includes a call for funding; it highlights positives of the school and gives specifics to families. Open House is being held on 29 January, from 5-7 pm.

C. Board Report – The Board reported a discussion of meetings shifting to Tuesdays starting in February.

VI. ADJOURN

Motion by Ms. Sekowski, seconded by Mr. Dill to adjourn at 9:13 p.m.; in favor: Sekowski, Dill, Illingworth, Waggoner, and Ledlie. Opposed: None.