



MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 2024 6:00 PM

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

Merit Academy Latin Room – Room 114

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 6:06 p.m.
- B. Roll Call: Mr. Ledlie, Mr. Dill, Ms. Sekowski, Ms. Waggoner and Ms. Illingworth present;
Absent: none.
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Public Comment: None.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Motion by Ledlie to table approval of 17 Jan 24 minutes to the next meeting, and therefore amend the agenda, seconded by Dill. In favor: Ledlie, Dill, Sekowski, Waggoner, Illingworth.
Opposed: None.

III. TEACHER RECOGNITION

Dr. Pekron recognized the founding group of teachers and staff of Merit Academy, remaining committed with multiple moves and many months of overcoming adversity. She discussed the passion and pride of being the original group of staff, and shared her gratitude for this group of faculty and staff.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR.

Waggoner made a motion to approve the consent calendar, seconded by Ledlie, with including meeting minutes approval for 4-3-24 and 4-17-24, as well as new hires, resignations and terminations. In favor: Ledlie, Dill, Sekowski, Waggoner, Illingworth. Opposed: None.

V. PTO PRESENTATION

PTO this year has raised approximately \$2500 worth of supplies for various classes, music equipment, Game Cam for science, art supplies, as well as \$2500 for Merit Bullseye Bears. Additional financial support for playground equipment, StuCo dance, Fun(d) Run, and CMAS. The PTO raised money recently from Valentines and for the Annual Gala held last week. The PTO

provided lunch and other items for teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week next week. The PTO will conclude the school year with Coin Wars, another fundraiser.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ms. Leanna Tally provided a preliminary budget presentation to the Board. The discussion included that salaries and benefits are the largest expenditures, year over year, with corresponding significant attention paid to those categories. Additional discussion of curriculum and facilities costs. There was a comparison of current year numbers to potential future revenue and expenditures. Ms. Tally noted that this coming fiscal year's budget drivers include a 20% increase in funded count/FTE students, expanded enrollment and a larger ratio of enrollment to WPSD enrollment for next year, the addition of multiple pre-k classes, a significant (22%) increase in full-time equivalent staff, and an expanded footprint in the building. This will cause additional revenues, but also additional expenditures to the school. Over 500 students projected to attend school at MA next year. The discussion included projected expenditures, with the significant majority of those projected including salaries and benefits. The budget proposal will occur at the beginning of June, with approval of the budget by the end of June.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

None.

VIII. REPORTS

The Deans reported that EOY testing will soon begin, including DIBELS testing. There are many field trips occurring, with trips to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Garden of the Gods and others tied to the curriculum. Teacher appreciation week begins next week, with a Wednesday luncheon by PTO. This Friday is lunchroom hero day, with gift certificates being presented to the lunchroom workers. Band concert is tomorrow, with the Deans as the "guest performers." MA's band teacher is retiring; new band director will be at the concert. Two weeks from now is the choir concert and then the SoG concert. Completed CMAS testing, excellent results. Discussion of WWII female veteran who presented at MA this week, Science Bowl, additional Merit sports teams, lots of field trips and Civil Air Patrol events. Additional exciting initiatives including new college course options, curriculum with Dr. Krannawitter and PTO initiatives. Finally, staff working on advanced degrees to expand their teaching and professional capabilities. Dr. Pekron discussed the importance of raising funds for various initiatives at the school. Mr. Dill discussed talking to the Peterson Space Force Base and the Ft. Carson school liaisons about the possibility of spots for their students for next year.

IX. ADJOURN

Motion by Dill to adjourn at 7:48 p.m., seconded by Sekowski. In favor: Ledlie, Dill, Sekowski, Illingworth and Waggoner. Opposed: None.