



WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 2024 6:00 PM

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

Merit Academy Science Room

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 6:05 p.m.

B. Roll Call: Mr. Ledlie, Mr. Dill, Ms. Waggoner and Ms. Illingworth were present; Ms. Sekowski was absent but joined at 6:15 p.m. before action items by the Board.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Public Comment – A new school club introduced themselves to the Board of Directors. Called the “Chosen Bears,” they are a club that celebrates and is inclusive of adopted/chosen Merit Academy students. The new club was welcomed by the Board of Directors after introducing itself.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Ledlie to amend the agenda and remove approval of the 1-17-24 minutes from the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Waggoner. Once the agenda was amended, Illingworth moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Ledlie. In favor: Ledlie, Dill, Illingworth, Waggoner. Opposed: None.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

Illingworth moved to approve the consent calendar, which included approval of meeting minutes from 2/7/24, 3/6/24 and 3/22/24, as well as new hires, resignations and terminations. The motion was seconded by Ledlie. In favor: Ledlie, Dill, Illingworth, Waggoner. Opposed: None.

IV. TEACHER RECOGNITION

Ms. Tonya Halcomb was recognized for taking on the additional duty of language teacher and working to improve French and German learning for 7th and 8th graders. Additional kudos was also given to Ms. Leanna Tally for her hard work in her position.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dr. Pekron provided an update regarding history credits, and a request regarding needed flexibility for the fourth required history credit in the Rhetoric curriculum. Ms. Waggoner asked about CO state graduation requirements and Dr. Pekron clarified that certain standards must be met, but that with the change to the fourth required history credit, state requirements will still be met. The Board also discussed the donation packet for potential donors, including changes to the packet in terms of merging requested dollar amounts, with adjusting the cover letter as needed.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

Ledlie moved for an approval for a change to the fourth required history credit for graduation requirements, seconded by Waggoner. In favor: Ledlie, Waggoner, Sekowski, Dill and Illingworth; Opposed: None.

VII. REPORTS

The Deans reported that CMAS testing is starting next week, will go through the end of April. Field trips are planning for multiple grades in the school, as well as an upcoming book fair with a company called Sky Tree in May. May 21 – K-2 musical will be held, along with a Young Authors and poetry event that afternoon. Band concert is on May 3, with SoR choir concert and K-2 Hats! Musical in May as well. Noted for the Board the need to finalize the final day of school, as well as Q4 awards. Requested that we finalize details in the near future. Further discussion of moving 4Q awards to the day before to shorten the ceremony the day of. The Headmaster reported that she is currently working on multiple positions to fill. Extended discussion regarding a potential HS science (anatomy/physiology) teacher to allow for concurrent college credit. Discussing facilities options for next year with WPSD concerning the MS building. Also mentioned discussion of a school-wide planned eclipse event on Apr 8 where students can join if permitted by parents. The Board reported a huge thank you to the Pipitone family for donating the life-sized bear to Merit Academy which now sits in the Commons– discussion of a thank you letter to the family for its generous donation to the school. Discussion of pushing one more time to sell additional community tickets for the Merit Gala on some of the community social media sites.

IV. ADJOURN

Motion by Sekowski to adjourn at 7:08 p.m., seconded by Dill. In favor: Ledlie, Dill, Sekowski, Illingworth, Waggoner. Opposed: None.