



## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

March 4, 2025 6:00 PM

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 6:03 p.m.
- B. Roll Call: Ledlie, Dill, Illingworth, Waggoner, and Sekowski present.
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Public Comment: None.

### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT CALENDAR**

Ms. Waggoner moved to amend the agenda by removing approval of the meeting minutes from the consent calendar, seconded by Ms. Illingworth. In favor: Waggoner, Illingworth, Dill, Sekowski, and Ledlie; opposed: none. Ms. Sekowski then moved to approve the agenda as amended, including the consent calendar, with a second by Ms. Waggoner. In favor: Sekowski, Waggoner, Dill, Illingworth and Ledlie; opposed: none.

### **III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Financial Update – Presented by Leanna Tally – Ms. Tally presented expenditures in the budget from November 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025. There were also questions from the Board regarding upcoming larger expenditures for the school, such as curriculum replacements.

B. Enrollment Numbers and Lottery Update – The Board discussed that there have been 142 applications for next school year, which will likely necessitate adding a third 5<sup>th</sup> grade class as well as others. Kindergarten had the most applicants, with 24% of applications from outside WPSD. Overall, multiple applications were from outside the district, either from homeschool, other school districts, and even other states and planning to move to the Woodland Park area.

C. Funding Updates – None.

### **IV. ACTION ITEMS**

None

## **V. REPORTS**

A. Deans - The Deans discussed an upcoming weeklong celebration of Dr. Suess week, with a different theme each day. Dean Hendrickson also advised the Board of the virtues assembly for March, with a virtue theme of perseverance. In addition, Dean Hendrickson updated that first grade will be attending the Space Discovery Center in March in Colorado Springs as a field trip. The school also has no more snow days for the year, but there is no limit on remote learning days for the rest of the school year. There will also be a professional development day in March for a Math in Focus training. Dean Hendrickson also gave current House totals, with Elk House in the lead.

B. Headmaster – None.

C. Board – Mr. Ledlie advised that the Board received a historical book, a German bible, as a gift offer from Michael Theimer. However, as the gift offer is conditional with extensive terms dealing with potential liability for the school, the Board gave to Ms. Illingworth for review before the Board discusses further and makes a decision on whether or not to accept the gift offer from Mr. Theimer. Ms. Sekowski also expressed interest in wanting to pilot a quarterly luncheon at Merit Academy for local realtors, with the possibility of starting this coming May. The format and topics are open currently, but there was some discussion of having Merit culinary students provide catering to showcase the school's student talent. Mr. Dill reported having a conversation with an interested parent who may want to start a Merit rugby team.

## **VI. ADJOURN**

Motion by Ms. Waggoner, seconded by Ms. Illingworth to adjourn at 7:38 p.m.; in favor: Waggoner, Illingworth, Dill, Sekowski, and Ledlie. Opposed: None.