

VMA Board Minutes of 3/14/17

Attendance: Philip Brown, Chris Carle, Alicia Chalmers, Bill Johnston, Steve Lobel, Christine Schlesinger and Felice Schulaner
Administration: Neil Phillips, Shannon Rohrer-Phillips, Cindy Day and Louis Parker

Meeting called to order at 2:59 PM by the Chair.

Prior Board Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Ms. Schulaner and seconded by Mr. Lobel to approve the Board Minutes for the February 8th and February 21st meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

School house report: Neil brought us up to date on both the completed testing to date and upcoming testing lasting until May 11th when this cycle will be complete. Preliminary comments as well as iReady results are positive showing scores of C and slightly higher for the 3rd grade. Confusion over dates has been resolved and hopefully it was not a negative on the writing portion for 4th, 5th and 6th grades. Spring break begins next week and teachers and students who will continue to prepare for these tests were commended for their diligence. Enrollment is down to 91 students and concern for the numbers was discussed. Neil presented three options for grade enrollment in September with comments both positive and negative for each. The formats were K-7, K-6 and K-5 with numbers for each. While no vote was taken most seemed to agree that we would like the school to be K-5 for the beginning of the school year beginning Sep 2018 and also with emphasis of recruiting 30+ Kindergarteners to support a second class. Concern for parents with more than one child attending was of greatest interest to the board. Questions were posed as to costs, athletics and mixed classes.

Outside the schoolhouse: Shannon talked of Neil's and her visit to Manatee Matches to report on the grant received late last year to add a social worker. The work that Peg Hughes has done in dealing with families and crisis intervention as well as improving retention of students was praised. There were NO Baker Acts and a far higher daily attendance rate of close to 95%. Shannon discussed the 2Gen program and the participation of 56% of the parents with some attending as many as 10-20 classes during the year. A recommendation from a donor was read which encouraged more participation and donations from the board. Event planning for Shine On with continued concern over the expenses of holding the event and possible revenues was discussed and the two chairs were thanked by all.

Finances: Louis walked us through the cash flow report and it was noted that the accruals for deferred summer teacher salaries and some other expenses were now being reflected as encumbrances on cash flow assessments. A letter from the head of the school district was discussed and the need for a response on ways to correct the financial concerns drew serious attention. It was decided and moved (motion by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Schlesinger) that the financial committee would meet after the meeting

ended and to draft the response from both our accounting firm and Neil. This was done with Neil, Louis, Phil, Steve and Bill in attendance. The 990 was approved unanimously with a motion made by Phil and seconded by Alicia with some minor adjustments to be made.

Next Meeting: At Alicia's request it was decided to hold a telephonic meeting on April 11, 2016 at 3 PM prior to our normally scheduled May meeting. Call in numbers will be mailed separately in time for this meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.