

Petoskey Montessori Children's House and Elementary School

Board of Trustees

April 9, 2024 5:30pm

PMCH Elementary Classroom

MINUTES

Attendees: Byron, Kuhlman, Neils, Roth, Campbell, Collins, Baittinger, Cohen, Alshab, Moulton, Carpenter; Not present: Walts (voted by proxy)

1. Call Meeting to Order – 5:38 pm

2. Review of Agenda - Motion to Approve Agenda – Kuhlman, 2nd Neils – unanimously carried

3. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes - Motion to Approve Previous Meeting Minutes – Neils, 2nd Kuhlman – unanimously carried

4. BOT Updates

- Guest Dave Patterson, Midwest Management – Charter Option Q&A:
 - Mr. Patterson's background is social work and higher ed background with a passion for maintaining and expanding rural education opportunities; his company Midwest Management works locally with Concord in Boyne, Montessori in Marquette, Marshall, Flat River, etc. Trustee Sarah Campbell had worked with Midwest and introduced Mr. Patterson to the PMCH board.
 - Goals: keep PMCH open with integrity and continuing our mission. Three options: 1) be a standalone school with tuition 2) standalone charter (cons right now are time constraint issues and enrollment minimums), 3) combine with another charter school (Boyne Concord (BC)). Option 3 is what PMCH is interested in pursuing right now. Students of PMCH would enroll at BC, and BC approves second location (PMCH). BC's charter authorizer is Lake Superior State University (LSSU), which only meet 5 times a year, so a proposal is timely.
 - Details of relationship with BC: PMCH would charge BC a lease fee for the building (essentially the funds that PMCH will receive), less payroll and fees. A PMCH parent or community member is welcome to join BC's board or we can have an advisory board for our site, perhaps a combined committee i.e., "curriculum committee". PMCH can still have board to run the non-profit. At risk funding and other supplemental funds cannot be recouped on a site-specific basis, it's more schoolwide (including BC). 2024-2025 charters will have access to the enhancement millage.
 - Mr. Patterson willing to help draft and submit a proposal to LSSU. Retained attorney should be involved in the lease agreement. Draft proposal includes: "management fee" = 3% LSSU, 4.5% Midwest Management fee – 7.5% total. Lease language should be able to fluctuate with enrollment numbers-percentage of per-pupil funding. Auditor the same as

Public Schools of Petoskey (PSP) – they charge based on # of students on district – share the costs with BC.

- Next LSSU board meeting in July-this is a concern with hiring the new teacher – late decision-making.
 - The key to success in entering a partnership with BC is to balance the risks entered by B.C. by having a second building with what PMCH will bring to the table. B.C.'s charter might have 2 year left – can do the lease for the length of the charter.
 - Support services – e.g., special education – shared services is possible if we do relationship building appropriately (one of the main concerns of PMCH staff).
 - Midwest does recruiting – s with the school leader.
 - Another potential option: “virtual” school which is like homeschooling that comes to a central location i.e., church.
- Concord Boyne Charter Partnership – Proposal Review and Vote: Motion to approve: Roth, 2nd Anna – unanimously carried

5. Financial

- Variance Reports – no report yet this month
- Cash Position – no report yet this month
- Payroll Penalty Update – no update
- Restitution Update – no update
- Tri-Share program: childcare employment assistance – reduces childcare costs for our employees and our costs: Motion to approve: Kuhlman, 2nd Neils, unanimously carried

6. Committees

- Maintenance Committee – Spring Clean Up – May 4th – need sand – possibly to a truckload; Amber will send out advertising/signup genius
- Fundraising – Spring Art Show – at Raleigh’s office space – May 18th – social committee will plan
- Social Committee – combine with spring art show above
- Elementary Steering Committee – job posting posted, resumes only received from overseas – not ideal for certification/visa status. Screening call before taking to full interview. Jen Harris can assist – Montessori experience and offers supports and can sit in on interviews.

7. Administration

- Enrollment Updates – no updates
- Program Updates – no updates

8. Public Comment

- NCMC and Char-EM have a job boards we should post openings on going forward

Adjourn – 7:01 pm

Next Meeting – May 14, 2024 @ 5:30pm, PMCH Elementary Classroom