

**CORNERSTONE MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING/RETREAT- VIRTUAL AND INPERSON
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023**

Board Members Present: Jean Melancon, Jess Goff, Julaine Roffers-Agarwal, Carolyn Ganz, Alyssa Schwartz, Tyler Bouwens, Sarah Stocco, Maisah Outlaw

Board Members Absent:

Other Attendees: Chris Bewell,

Meeting called to order by Julaine Roffers-Agarwal, Board Chair, at

AGENDA

Public Comment Period: Comments limited to 3 minutes per person.

- No visitors present

Approval of Agenda & Declaration of Conflict of Interest

JEAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DAY'S AGENDA. CAROLYN SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Bouwens	x	
Ganz	x	
Goff	x	
Melancon	x	
Outlaw	x	
Roffers-Agarwal	x	
Stocco	x	

Julaine asked whether, given the approved agenda, there were any conflicts of interest. None were disclosed.

Discussion of Strategic Plan – Slides!

Community Progress and Priorities

- Tyler is moving into development work – looking for some feedback about where to focus - 5 minutes to gather ideas for Development committee
- Sarah – reflecting about our community after AMI global talk on Thursday – do we need a chance to redefine our values, vision, community? Also thinking about how AMI interacts with community schools.

- Original plan with strategic plan was to take a step back from revising mission and vision and then come back to look at mission and vision again – bold revision could be possible with better understanding of ourselves (equity work, etc)
- Engagement – on Maisah’s and Tyler’s minds – have we plateaued with engagement and enrollment? How to reengage and reconnect?
- What are goals of development committee? What is the difference in a parent association?
- Friends of the school, newsletter, friend-raising and fundraising
- Alumni association – the logistics of collecting and connecting with previous families
- Connection to the east side – needs to continue and be strengthened
- Previous attempts at parent involvement have been mixed – not enough direction
- Volunteer coordinator could help all parties?
- Hard to know what parents want at this point – we have good attendance for events with children present (stone soup, conferences, parents teach children) and really poor attendance for parent education
- Parent association could really show that we trust families
- Parents associations cannot be driven by the school, has to be a real organization with bylaws, etc, etc - this is connected to fundraising, etc – could be a loose organization to support school (not financially)

Equity – Progress and Priorities

- Moving forward with leadership support from Embracing Equity from March 2023-2024
- Staff hasn’t been chosen yet
- How do we determine budgeting numbers and priorities as we move forward? Sarah notes that our equity work seems to be moving from a training to a foundational long term built in piece of our budget and vision? This work is expensive and not a one-off expense.
- This might be premature but important – we’ll have a better sense as we see how this work plays out. We will continue to get specific information as we move forward with a concrete plan.
- Also, we need to be prepared to actually do the work, make the changes, do the hard parts!
- Salaries and benefits – we need to continue to look at equity within our staff and in relation to other staff

Sustainability – Progress and Priorities

- at MCM - non-gendered bathroom in progress (designed, waiting for work to start)
- Lease is up for renewal this year (every 3)
- Shared space and services revised every year

- Joint board meeting? Does it serve us? Not really strengthening our relationship, so focusing on board chair relationships instead
 - o Could we also invite board members to CMES events to build relationship
- Chris and Jean have been reviewing and adjusting our banking relationships
 - o Moving towards having everything at Northeast
- Consider how to be most effective with charter school advocacy
- Focus on positives with MCM – complicated relationship with many overlaps
 - o What would it look like in a fantasy world where we were one school?
 - o Funding would need to change
 - o Maybe we try to articulate how the relationship has changed during the year – help us see the changes, not just the history
 - o Maybe CMES could purchase the MCM building someday...

Access – Progress and Priorities

- Summer programming has been difficult to maintain
 - o need to consider funding and future plans
 - o ESSER funding is a possibility
 - o there is some funding coming from state – but scale will be smaller this year – Chris and Alyssa will be meeting next week to think and plan
 - o Could we charge for summer camp for some children? Provide for others?

Joe Aliperto – Dieci Finance (joined 11:40)

- Expansion financial considerations
 - o Slide from Jean and Joe about possible funding projections for both an LE classroom and a JrHigh classroom
 - o Successful programs hired a full time staff member a full year in advance – meaning we would need the salary for a full year in advance
 - o Other costs extrapolated from elementary – identifying reoccurring costs that would be yearly expenses.
 - o These numbers are very much ball park figures – not precise but trying to think through all expenses
 - o 20 children in either option leaves a little bit of net revenue
 - o Classroom set up is a big investment (\$50,000 for LE for example)
 - o Any expansion needs to be given enough ramp up time to design and create a successful program
 - o Transportation could impact bottom line
 - o One-to-one devices would be possible for JrHigh – need to add to budget
 - o Could a teacher hired a year early also work with CMES in some capacity? Probably

- Enrollment charts – looking at how to fill from current families – 50% retention for first couple years
- Break even for Jr. high is about 18 students – this assumes multiple teaching staff
- Earliest for expansion would be 24-25 school year?
- Lots to think about
- Is this the right timing?
- (Joe) If we stayed the same – no expansion – at what point does revenue cross expenses? COVID funding has really given us some breathing room, but still approaching – meaning we will need to change funding or staffing models to incorporate changes in funding – or we will start projecting losses. ESSER funding is on its way out for example.
- (Joe) If we added LE in the church, an additional concern would be inequity between the classrooms...discussion of bonding and renovations...
- Concerns about church – seems easy but actually very hard – if only because of the disconnect between the two spaces – food, busing, etc, around the corner...
- Maybe think about cloning rather than expansion?
 - Another campus?
- Poll parents?

Adjourn

SARAH MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 12:36 PM. JEAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE VOTES WERE:

Board Member	Aye	Nay
Bouwens ABSENT		
Ganz ABSENT		
Goff	x	
Melancon	x	
Outlaw	x	
Roffers-Agarwal	x	
Stocco	x	

The next CMES Board Meeting is Tuesday, March 21st, 2023, 6 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jess Goff, CMES Secretary.