

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2020 • 9 AM-11 AM

Zoom

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Welcome & Introductions | called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. |
| Reading of the Mission Statement | To increase the quality of charter school authorizing in the state of Minnesota by developing and identifying practices and policies that ensure effective oversight and evaluation of Minnesota charter schools. |
| Establish Quorum | <p>Members Present: Heather Johnson Ross, Erin Anderson, Beth Topoluk, Wendy Swanson Choi, Tu Nguyen, Laurie Schroeder, James Ewer, Larry McKenzie, Liz Wynne, Nalani McCutcheon, Rod Haenke, Glory Kibbel, Emily Edstrom Moore, Shannon Hinz, Aaliyah Hodge, Adam Myhand, Sarah Schmidt.</p> <p>Director: Alul Yesak</p> |
| Agenda | An amendment to the printed agenda to remove the simulation. Motioned made by Glory, seconded Erin. Motion carries. |
| Meeting Norms | Chair McKenzie shared a reminder to follow the meeting norms. |
| Guests: Eugene Piccolo, MACS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public policy: MACS is finalizing their public policy agenda for the next session. MACS had representation on the school finance committee. The report calls for 2.5 billion in educational funding and equity was a major driving force in that work and if the entire plan is enacted, charters would benefit • The department has also started a learning model transition group working on planning for students coming back to the building in person. • Another working group Ricker put together on equitable safe learning. • MDE put out a survey this week about changing the system regarding how students can identify their gender. • The Cruz-Guzman case is at the most 'sensitive' juncture of the process and there are negotiations going on with that, attempting to bring this to a close. • MACS is working to develop an equity statement and a statement on the drafted amendment to the constitution. • MACS is expanding efforts in terms of innovation and are doing a monthly innovation recognition to share the ideas that schools are experimenting with and there will be a write up each month. • Weekly calls on Tuesday mornings have had around 40% participation from school leaders. Really strong networking happening through that. • January will start 'how to' sessions on a monthly basis again. Jan. will focus on record keeping, Feb. will be LGBT issues with schools. • MACS board training scheduled Jan-March and has info on the website. |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from Emily: have you heard of any rumblings of the budget for the next session? Holdbacks? Reponse: Nothing at the moment since MN has a budget surplus. • Question from Emily: Question on the proposed amendment: Could you summarize your overall position? Response: three concerns. 1. Intent of the language in terms of uniform standards, 2. Needs to be something around a financial commitment. 3. Who is responsible if a child doesn't have a quality of education? Eugene will share their draft proposal, please keep it to this group until publicly released. • Request from Erin: Talk more about Cruz-Guzman. Response: The issue has come down to the issue of achievement and integration. There are seven big questions on the table. The state would like to get this wrapped up so that any potential settlement and resulting legislative changes could be acted on during the upcoming session. • Request from Emily: Please talk about the language about corrective action. Response: the approach is punitive and not focused on continuous improvement for anything identified through MAPES. Eugene feels that this should be continuous improvement and corrective action should be saved for more major issues. |
| <p>Committee Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Committee • Standards and Principles • Effective Practices Committee • Legislative and Policy Committee • Finance Committee • Directors Report | <p>EC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graves is willing to support us and we're working on moving forward for them to consider our proposal in January. • Reorganizing the calls with the commissioner ~ starting on Microsoft Teams for the next meetings. Please send questions to Alul • Insurance was renewed • Audit is moving forward <p>Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on the corrective action language for authorizers. Shifting from adjusting timelines (which was last year's thought) to focusing on continuous improvement instead of punitive measures. MACS has noticed that MDE is stepping out of their authority with MAPES and this conversation has been productive and informed the proposed language. Plan to vote on language at the next meeting. • Page amendment: response from the Federal Reserve regarding some of our questions. "Quality" has a higher legal threshold than "adequate" and would give families a legal platform for advocating for their child's education. Emily read the response from the Federal Reserve. Wendy's response is that there seems to be an opportunity for educating folks about charter schools and their contracts. Although this doesn't apply to traditional districts, charters have a measure for quality outlined in the contract. Three ways to move forward: approve, make a public statement generally approving the idea, but outlining concerns, vote to not approve it. • Motion to remove the proposed Page amendment from the table, Seconded: Erin. • Motion on the table to approve the Page amendment made by Aaliyah and seconded by Sarah. Discussion: could the amendment supersede contracts with authorizers? Concerns about the interplay between the |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| | <p>amendment and charter structures. Motion to table the motion made by Emily and seconded by Heather. Vote: passed unanimously.</p> <p>Grant Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Submitted a proposal to the Graves Foundation and positive response thus far. ● Working on the GMS report/update due in January. <p>Effective Practices Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Committee has been working on goals. Wendy has done a data request and we received a large amount of data specific to all charter school students. Committee analyzed data and provided a summary of data from FY17-FY19 and possible language. Glory went over a document that summarized data and contained drafted goals. The Board is being asked to review, provide feedback, and vote at an upcoming meeting. <p>Director's report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Included report contains reflections over the 2020 calendar year.. Inclusion: racial equity, strengthening partnerships, and the vast amount of internal work being accomplished in partnership with all members. ● New school group on navigating enrollments during the pandemic. Glory and Alul shared that some new schools are interested in collaborating to discuss enrollment strategies. Glory and Laurie will work on setting this up. <p>Finance Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bergan had an interview with Erin and we have an engagement letter ready to send. They will look over our finances and practices and provide suggestions. ● 990 and other required documents engagement letter sent to CPA |
| Closing Items | Next meeting is Friday, January 8 at 9 AM |
| Adjourn | Motion to adjourn: Laurie, seconded Heather. Motion carries. |