

Minutes of the St. Cloud Math and Science Academy Board of Directors
136 Division St. Waite Park, MN 56387
September 8, 2014 - 5:00 PM

Mission

To serve the needs of all students as they prepare to become life-long learners and contributing members of society through integration of Science, Technology, Math and Engineering into the traditional content areas of Reading, Language Skills, Social Studies, the Arts and Physical Education. Kindness and respect for others is the foundation upon which students will develop into critical and ethical thinkers who will be prepared to meet the challenges of future job market and intrapersonal skills requirements.

1. The meeting was call to order at 5:02 by Cortez Evans

2. Reading of Mission by Cortez Evans **Reading of Vision** by Tammy Bengtson

3. Cortez Evans conducted the roll call.

Members Present:

Britt O'Neal
Debbie Adair
Sarah Klinnert
Shannon Dyrud
Cortez Evans

Members Absent:

Ismael Ali
Haji Yussuf

Others Present:

Tammy Bengtson	Erin Fleischhacker
Kara Gaffy	Leah Shelley
Amy Erickson	Lisa Trnka
Shukri Hashi	Sue Jackson
John Smith	April Herman
Britney Soldner	
Megan Roberg	
Mary Niehoff	

There was a quorum.

4. Cortez Evans moved to approve the agenda, Sarah Klinnert seconded. Discussion: Add to the Consent Agenda: 1) Acceptance of Dori Lindsay's resignation from the Board 2) Acceptance of donations from St. John's University Add to the Agenda: 1) Teacher comments on first week of school, motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of 8/11/14 Board Minutes tabled until 10/13/14.

6. Sarah Klinnert moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Britt O'Neal seconded:

- a. Acceptance of Dory Lindsay's resignation from SCMSA Board of Directors (Thanks, Dory, for all your hard work!)
- b. Approval of New Hire and Salaries
- c. Acceptance of Donations (including from St. John's University: desks, tables, bookshelves and cabinets.) Motion passed unanimously.

7. Treasurer's Report (Britt O'Neal)

The current enrollment is 162. The first day of school there were 144 students. Kara Gaffy will look at getting a line of credit through a credit assistance fund to supplement our cashflow deficit (some payments from the state come later in the year, and we will need to borrow money to pay our teachers before then). For current financial status, see attached August Financial Report. Britt O'Neal moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Sarah Klinnert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8. First Week of School Update

1. Comments from Teachers

- Many behavior issues, no time to teach or do science experiments, dealing with wanderers, fights, etc.
- Need a place for children to go outside and run around. The gym is not adequate.
- Walls between classrooms and gym don't block the noise enough. It is very difficult for teachers and students to hear each other when the gym is being used.
- The woman's toilet that has been replaced needs to be a "fast flush". Children are not going to stand there and hold it down. Also, especially boys need more stalls.
- Ideas for positive reinforcement/ behavior management: PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) assemblies, Positive Pride slips, CARES (Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, Self-Control)

2. Transportation

Many problems with the busses. Children getting on the wrong bus, not being dropped off at the right place, waiting too long, misbehaviors on the buses. Parents tired of waiting for things to get straightened out and removing their children.

3. Food Service

Need more people to help serve lunch, either volunteers, or hire lunchroom aides. the director spent every day helping in the lunchroom, when she was really needed in other places.

9. We have a new website: scmsastem.com Board Minutes will be posted there.

10. Facilities Report (Sarah Klinnert)

Sarah is working on getting volunteers through RSVP from St. John's and St. Benedict's Universities. Members of the Board will need to go to these places and recruit them. As long as they are not alone with students they will not need a background check.

11. Promise Neighborhood (John Smith)

Mr. Smith introduced himself and his organization, "Promise Neighborhood", a non profit neighborhood organization in S.E. St. Cloud by Talahi School.

12. Applying For Grants (Kara Gaffy)

Kara Gaffy said that until we obtain our 501C3, when applying for grants we can put in our state tax id# instead.

13. Authorizer's Fee (Kara Gaffy)

Our Authorizer, Novation Education Opportunities, has waived their fee for the first 2 years of being our authorizer, for which we are exceedingly grateful! We do, however, owe them \$13,120.00 for this year, which will be paid in two installments: by 10/1/14 and 6/30/15. Thank you Neo, for your hard work and diligence on our behalf.

14. Director's Report (Tammy Bengtson)

Tammy Bengtson will talk to Lee Hanson about getting an estimate for putting up a sound barrier on the side wall of the gym, as well as taking down the wall in the 2nd grade classroom to provide more space. Bemboom Fence is applying for a permit to fence off part of the property next to the south building for a playground area. Tammy Bengtson also discussed the need for a licensed physical education teacher and some lunch time aides so she and Cabdicasiis Cilmi (who has been filling in for phy ed) can be freed up to do their jobs. Also, we still need to hire a .6 ELL teacher (we have 1.4) Kara Gaffy said that she originally figured out the budget for 75% of the student body receiving Free and Reduced Lunch (FRP). Because the current student body is actually 90% FRP, those extra funds will support the hiring of a .8 Physical Education Teacher/ .2 DAPE Teacher, as well as 2 or 3 lunch paras at \$10.00/hr for 3 hours a day. We could also extend the hours of a para to come in earlier for breakfast or work through their lunch period. Dr. Brian Ingvalson is working on applications for Title I and Title III funding. If we receive these, we will be able to hire a teacher and/ or paras.

15. Debbie Adair moved to approve Shukri Hashi to be on SCMSA Board of Directors, Shannon Dyrud seconded. Discussion: Shukri is a parent of 2 children at SCMSA and has volunteered at other schools. She has applied for this position on the Board. Motion passed unanimously.

16. Designated Identified Official with Authority to authorize user access to MDE secure website for our school. – Our executive director needs access to the MDE secure website for business and management purposes. She also needs to be able to authorize other staff to have access for purposes such as assigning a MARSS coordinator and assigning staff to the Clics system.

Shannon Dyrud moved to approve Tammy Bengtson; executive director of SCMSA to be assigned the official with Authority to authorize user access to MDE secure website for SCMSA. Deb Adair seconded. Discussion. This needs to get done as soon as possible so that Tammy is able to assign a MARSS Coordinator.

Future Board Meetings:

Oct. 13 (Discipline Policy will be reviewed)

Nov. 10

Dec. 8

Jan. 12

Feb. 9

Mar. 16 (Tentative date Annual Meeting, before regular board)

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM

