

Meeting Minutes
East Cooper Montessori Charter School

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Executive 5:00 pm Open Meeting 5:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 850 3251 5584

Passcode: 187074

Executive Session:

I. Administrative -

A. Meeting was called to order at 5:55pm

B. Board Members Roll Call:

Abby Kazley- Year 1 of 2 -Chair Present
Kristen Rising - Year 1 of 2 -Secretary Present
DJ Barnhill - Year 1 of 2 Treasurer Not Present
Denise Runza - Year 1 of 2 Present
Abe Gutting- Year 2 of 2 Present
Merissa Elisei- Year 2 of 2 Present
Deidre Ostrander- Year 1 of 2 Present

C. Ex-Officio Members:

Jody Swanigan, Principal Present
Billy Koll, Financial Director Present
Brooke Johnson, Teacher Member Present

D. Mission Statement: Provide a rigorous Montessori education guiding the children toward academic excellence, lifelong learning, and stewardship of the greater community.

E. Freedom of Information Compliance: In Compliance

G. Public Comment: Two parents attended the meeting. 6th grade parent Jennifer Gable and 1st grade parent Amanda Bowsher. Jennifer Gable requested the ECMCS board to consider removing the mask mandate. Jennifer shared information regarding James Island Charter choosing to not follow the mask mandate, as well as other opinions on masks.

II. Presentation/Discussion Items:

A. Financial/Development

- a. Financial Dashboard - Billy, high level review of funds, on track. ESSER funds to be booked.
- b. ESSER 2 & 3 Planning/Committee update - Abby
 - i. Team assembled to formalize spending plan for ESSER 3 focusing on three categories from a recent survey of families and staff (facilities, mental health, & learning loss). The team has met 3 times, out of a planned 6 sessions prior to when the spending proposal is due.
- c. Budget First Reading - Billy
 - i. 2022 budget review. \$105K positive projects

- d. Annual Fund Jody
 - i. 104%, \$72,562 raised against goal of \$70,000
- e. Auction Planning - Deirdre
 - i. April 22- in person event. Sponsor planning to occur soon.

B. Educational Program:

- a. Principal Presentation
 - i. For the Love Week: support for the teachers and staff
- b. Social Justice Project - Jody
 - i. Cultural Competencies: Do you see what I see? Tiny is Powerful
 - ii. Entire school involved, but mostly MS/UE. Mural planned for Grand Hall.
- c. MAP Winter data - Jody Topic moved until March meeting and will have Nikki or Lisa present.

C. Administration/HR

- a. New Hires - Jody
 - i. Afterschool hire: Elle Cantor
 - ii. Open TA position coming soon Lower El
- b. Covid Care of Teachers - Jody
 - i. E-learning days
- c. Masks at ECMCS - Abby
 - i. DHEC guidelines changed Feb 14 and no longer recommends mask mandates. CCSD mask mandate to end March 15. ECMCS board will vote on mask mandate.

D. Community & Public Relations

- a. Recognitions and awards - Blue Ribbon School - Abe
 - i. Initial research taking place. To follow up in March

E. Facilities:

- a. Driveway Billy/Jody
 - i. Drawings available on GOogle Drive. Project to begin before end of school year.
- b. Carpet/furniture/nurses clinic cabinetry reallocation - Billy/Jody
- c. Air quality initiative - Billy
 - i. CCSD Engineer coming on site 2/21 to review HVAC plan with Billy.
- d. Playground - Billy/Jody
 - i. Delays seen due to fire at manufacturing facility for PlayWorld

Action Items:

Teacher Covid Care

Masks: Vote to make masks optional at ECMCS. Abe motioned and Merissa seconded.

New Hire: Vole to hire Elle Cantor as afterschool support. Merissa motioned and Abe seconded.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:24pm

Your Governing Board

The governing board recognizes that public support and open lines of communication are the keys to our school's success.

We encourage you to become involved in our school, to be informed about issues that affect students, parents, and our staff, to inform board members about your concerns, and to attend board meetings. The responsibility of the Governing Board of East Cooper Montessori Charter School is to ensure excellence in the governance of a quality

educational program by supporting the school's mission and charter, analyzing needs, establishing policies, allocating resources, and monitoring progress.

Board Meetings

Regular meetings of the Governing Board are held the second Thursday of each month, beginning at 5:30 pm at East Cooper Montessori Charter School or on Zoom. Special-called meetings are scheduled as needed.

Citizen Participation

Anyone wishing to speak to the Board must register in person the night of the regular meeting. The opportunity to address the Board at each regular Board Meeting is 20 minutes at the beginning of the meeting.

- Each speaker has three minutes.
- Speakers may not ask questions of board members.
- Board members may not engage speakers in discussion.
- Disruptive behavior is not permitted.
- Personal attacks aimed at students or staff are not permitted.
- Scurrilous, obscene, or recklessly defamatory language aimed at any board member is not permitted.

The board will follow up on all matters presented by speakers.