Inavale Community Partners
Public Board Meeting

Muddy Creek Charter School – Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 30, 2026
Time:7:00 PM
Location: Virtual

Recording of meeting available: https://www.youtube.com/@MuddyCreekCharterSchool

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Attendees:

Board Members:
Patrick Riccolo, President – Virtual
Jacque Krumrey, Vice President – Virtual
Derek Jordan, Treasurer – Virtual
Brooke Cassell, Secretary – Virtual
Lester Ohler – Virtual
Keri Cribbs – Virtual
(Jamie Hahn – Absent)

Other attendees:
Sarah Danforth, Executive Director - Virtual
Tonya Mosher, Muddy Creek's Bookkeeper - Virtual

7:03 pm – **Call to Order, Patrick**

7:05 pm - **Report on current financials, Derek Jordan & Tonya Mosher**

- Derek reported that we will end our year in the negative, using all of our reserves. We need to come up with some budget adjustments to make it through the rest of the year.
- Tonya reported that our June projected balance is ~$36,000, which doesn't include legal bills. February's legal bill was ~$12,000, and we haven't gotten March's legal bill yet. There is no additional money. Significant budget cuts are needed for the school to stay solvent. Recommended reserves for a charter school are about 3–6 months, so for MCCS, ~$330,000.
- Brooke asked 2 questions: 1. How much does Corvallis School District want us to have in our reserves (for Patrick) and 2. What is our projected # of students (for Sarah)?

– Patrick answered that we have not yet received an answer from Melissa (CSD) on how much the district wants us to have in our reserves.

– Sarah answered that at this time we have 113 projected students between the lottery and families who are planning to return next year.

– Patrick noted that we had previously targeted a little over $100K in our reserves for the end of the year. Most of our budget goes to personnel, so emergency layoffs may be our only chance of meeting our goal.

– Sarah suggested that layoffs are an operational matter and that it would be customary for the Executive Director to develop a proposal prior to the Board proposing and debating layoffs.

– Lester suggested a that starting goal amount of $50K in reserves by the end of the year would be reasonable and that we could aim for another $50K at the beginning of next year.

– Jacque raised a concern that there may be additional legal fees, uncharged bus fees, and that a goal number would need to include all of those unpaid expenses.

– Brooke asked what the background reasons are for our budget issues.

– Lester responded that during Covid enrollment numbers dropped and they didn’t recover as expected.

– Tonya responded that our FTE is too high, considering declining enrollment, and previous budgets used the previous year’s reserves in the current year’s budget, so the numbers weren’t realistic.

– Jacque asked about the possibility of leaving the PERS system.

– Tonya responded that it is complicated, the liability can be challenging, and it would be a longer process than just one year.

– Patrick asked Sarah if she has ideas for cutting expenses this year and what areas those would be in.

– Sarah responded that she does not have a proposal yet but would like a chance to look into it.

– Tonya indicated that we would need $30,000 just to finish out the year.

– The group discussed that this figure would mean finishing out the year but then closing down the school and not reopening for the 2026–2027 school year.

– Tonya asked Patrick if he has had any luck asking the District if they could waive our seismic loan payment of $22,000 (due in May).

– Patrick responded that he has not had that conversation yet, but he will be asking. Suggests that we need to cut $70K for this year.

– Lester that also means letting the community know that they need to step up (fundraising, volunteering, etc.)

- Patrick agreed that is the kind of community that Muddy Creek was built around, so that would be a benefit in multiple ways.
- Jacque asked if we end up closing the school, what happens to the seismic loan? Does CSD absorb the loan?
- Patrick responded that probably would be the case because of the nature of the building ownership (the building belongs to the Corvallis School District, though with the contingency that it reverts back to prior owners if not used as a school).
- Lester suggested that Sarah come up with multiple plans, including a plan to close the school, and we choose as quickly as possible.
- Patrick suggested that closing the school not be included as an option at this point and that potential plans only include budget cuts. Lester, Derek and Brooke agree.
- **Jacque moved that the Executive Director draw up two plans: one to cut $50,000 and another to cut $70,000 for this school year and present them by the next Board Meeting on April 9, 2026.**
- Patrick suggested that because there are only 10 weeks of school remaining, waiting until the next board meeting means taking 10% off of our time to implement the savings, making the savings that much more painful, and suggested that a plan needs to be presented sooner.
- Sarah responded that she foresees the next Board meeting as being the most reasonable for a realistic plan.
- Brooke asked Sarah if she can send the plans a day or two prior to the Board meeting so the Board can review them ahead of the meeting.
- Sarah responded that would be her plan.
- **Lester seconded the motion.**

Votes: Patrick = 1, Derek = 1, Brooke = 5, Jacque = 5, Lester = 5, Keri = 5. Motion passes.

8:02 pm - Patrick noted that the Board cares very much about the school and is here because we all want the school to succeed. Conversations like this one are hard, but we want the best learning environment for our kids. He put out a call to the community for help in any way that people can—grant writing, volunteering in any way possible—please don't hesitate to reach out.

8:04 pm – **Close, Patrick**