Magellan Charter School
Board Meeting
November 28th, 2023
6pm

Board members in attendance: Suzy Allaire, Jessica O'Donovan (non-voting), Ali Pulley, Sean Witty, Jim Nowak, Jessica Leggett

Visitors: Becky Green, Sheri Regan, Teresa Taylor, Amy Clay, Stephanie Ford, Tricia Liberatore

The meeting was called to order by J. Nowak at 6:05pm. No conflicts of interest relating to the agenda were declared.

J Nowak welcomed guests and introduced board members.

8th Grade Presentation @ 6:06pm

- 8th grade representatives, led by T. Taylor, supported by S. Ford, provided an overview of the Socratic Seminar discussion method via presentation and video. Preparation and presentation materials were shared, and the Board engaged in Q&A with the students.

Poyner Spruill overview of Parents Bill of Rights @ 6:20pm

- A. Clay (from Poyner Spruill, the school's counsel) provided the Board with a presentation that outlined new state legislation called The Parents Bill of Rights. While much of the new legislation is still being clarified, the Board and School will begin preparing and will comply by implementing required policies beginning in January 2024. The Parent Guide to Student Achievement will be prepared for distribution by the start of the next school year (August 2024).

Chairperson J. Nowak @ 7:00pm

- J. Nowak thanked J. O'Donovan for the Board Walk Through on 10/28 and 11/3 touring Board members through the school and various classrooms so that the Board could view first hand various classrooms and instructional methods.

- J. Esham motioned for the minutes from the last board meeting to be passed. S. Allaire seconded. All agreed and the motion was passed.

- J. Nowak provided the Board with an overview from the grade reps regarding the calendar for next year. Consensus is developing from the feedback and the Board intends to vote on the new calendar before the end of December.

MAP Update @ 7:06pm

- MAP reported over $83,000 was raised through this year's It's Up To Us Campaign, exceeding the target. This was a positive achievement; the Board expressed gratitude to MAP volunteers and all participants.

Booster Update @ 7:09pm

- The Booster update stated that Basketball season has begun. The Boosters were able to raise a total (including direct donations) of $5,400 from the Butter Braids Campaign. Appreciation was given to those who participated and/or donated to this fund raiser.

Head of School Update by J. O'Donovan @ 7:17pm

- The first "Buddy Breakfast" will be held December 1st.

- J. O'Donovan voiced her thanks to board members working with the teachers on the 2024-2025 calendar. Final draft will be shared for approval at the next Board meeting. The calendar will include 178 instructional days, 10 early release days, and 12 work days.

- This year is the Teacher Working Conditions Survey, which is given every two years by the state. As a result, the Board decided that it would withhold the Climate Survey until next year, and that each survey would then be provided every two years in order to not overlap.

Grade Rep Update by T. Liberatore @ 7:30pm

- Teachers appreciated having participation in the calendar decisions. Teachers have interest in a mid-year check in (as opposed to the year end review); would like agenda/questions in advance to prep if necessary. The Board discussed these mid-year check ins on a teacher workday to assist in scheduling and timeliness. This date is currently being planned for 2/16/24.

Financial Update by B. Green @ 7:36pm

- The prior school year audit has been completed, reviewed, and submitted to DPI.

- Year to Date Financials were presented to the Board. The Financials continue to show that the school is expected to finish the year slightly profitable, though final revenues for the year have yet to be confirmed.

- The Board discussed proposed staff/teacher pay increases. S. Witty made a motion to approve the increases and S. Allaire seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- The Board discussed providing staff/teachers with a pro-rata $500 holiday bonus, which was directly taken from the budget (discussed above). J. Esham made a motion to pay the bonus, and J. Leggett seconded. All approved and the motion passed.

- The Board discussed the Reimbursement for Paid Parental Leave Program and the costs/benefits associated. J. Esham made a motion to opt into the reimbursement program for paid parental leave for the 2023 school year and S. Witty seconded. All approved and the motion passed.

- Quotes are being obtained for carpeting on the second floor, which will be a major focus of the upcoming Capital Campaign.

- The school is focused on ensuring the future contracts with vendors do not auto renew and is actively seeking to get newer and more competitive bids on a number of older contracts.

Committee Meeting Reports @ 8:19pm

- Academic Excellence - Next committee meeting on 1/9. They will review EOG data.

- The Governance Committee met in the week prior to this Board meeting.

- The Finance Committee was in process of working on a revised investment policy developed in conjunction with the Magellan Foundation. Any recommended changes will be discussed and voted on in future meetings.

- The Strategy Committee has proposed a meeting TBD.

Capital Campaign Review @ 8:26pm

- The Board discussed next year's Capital Campaign and decided the focus would be on upstairs flooring, security cameras (where/if needed), and enhanced playground/equipment.

Previous Business @ 8:39pm

- The Board discussed allowing sponsorship for the Honor Roll Breakfast. MAP will be asked to 1) find out what kind of advertising is expected and 2) figure out how MAP can put guidelines in place to ensure no inappropriate advertising is requested.

- A .Pulley exited the Board this evening after many wonderful years of service. She was thanked for her years of hard work and dedication to the school.

Closed Session @ 8:48pm

- On proper motion by S. Witty and seconded by J. Nowak, the board unanimously approved to enter Closed Session to discuss sale of real property.
- At 9:25pm, On proper motion by S. Allaire and seconded by S. Witty, the board unanimously approved to leave Closed Session.

Next board meeting is scheduled Jan. 16, 2024.

A Pulley moved to adjourn, and J. Esham seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:26pm.