Magellan Charter School
Board Meeting
June 25, 2025
6:00pm

Board members in attendance: Suzy Allaire, Jim Nowak, Jessica Leggett, Ailis Monsees, John Esham, Sean Witty

Visitors: Becky Green, Katie Popowski, Liz Woods

The meeting was called to order by J. Nowak at 6:02pm. No conflicts of interest relating to the agenda were declared.

Approve Minutes by J. Nowak @ 6:04pm

- J. Esham moved to approve the 5/20/25 board meeting minutes. S. Witty seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MaP Update & Booster Update by J. Holt and K. Moffat @ 6:06pm

- No updates from MaP or Booster

Staff Update by K. Popowski @ 6:08pm

- The staff express their appreciation for the approved bonuses and acknowledge a successful school year.
- There is a question about why the applicant pool for open positions is dropping. Administration noted a slight decline in applicants (across the county, not just MCS), but talent remains attracted to our school. Administration and board have refined recruitment materials and postings to ensure candidates understand the school mission and the high expectations of students, staff, and families.
- The Board thanked MCS teachers for a great year and gave special recognition to K. Popowski for her service as the years Teacher Board Liaison.

Financial Update by B. Green @ 6:15pm

- Reviewed renewal of the Audit contract with Batchelor, Tillery and Roberts. The base price is $18,500 for the school and $1,200 for the Foundation, MaP, and Boosters, consistent with this year's costs.
- J. Nowak motioned to approve the audit contract with Batchelor, Tillery and Roberts. S. Witty seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

- B. Green delivered a presentation regarding ongoing water drainage challenges in several locations surrounding the school building. Following an assessment by a hardscape drainage specialist, recommended remediation measures include replacing downspout pipes and connections, along with implementing landscaping-based drainage solutions.
- Finance shared various projects needed over the summer, with estimates including sealing/repaving the parking lot ($11,127), new PA system ($35k), laminate glass for classroom/office doors ($15k), Stormwater pond repairs ($3,500), gym floor resurfacing ($2,007), remove/reinstall panel systems ($1,200), downspout and drainage repairs (estimate $30k-$70k), tree removal ($7,700), sod repair ($2,100), water heater replacement ($1,785), elevator repair ($7,000), additional audit and tax return fees ($1,500).
- The Safety Grant funds ($25k) were used on adding additional security cameras, laminating glass on the doors, and a keypad for the Police Dept to enter the building.
- The school had a healthy fiscal year, and a strong balance sheet. The board plans to move the vast majority of the surplus to the Foundation. The board will propose transferring $140k from the Foundation to help cover urgent repairs and reserve study items (Capex expenses).
- The Draft Budget for FY26 was reviewed for voting purposes. The projected revenue is $44,000 less than the amended budget for the current year. This year, a family contributed $20,000 to MCS's Operating Budget. Expenses have been reduced since revenue is projected to be less.
- S. Witty moved for approval of the proposed FY26 Budget. The motion was seconded by A. Monsees and carried unanimously.

Committees Update @ 7:12pm

- Academic Excellence Committee: Will review and track reasons families decide to leave MCS
- Governance Committee: Will be reviewing MOU.
- The committee conducted research on shared PTO days and previous decisions. The financial impact was found to be negative due to tax implications and varying payout rates for teachers. Maintaining a neutral budget would require distributing funds rather than only transferring leave days.
- Finance Committee: Large surplus this year, but it will be allocated to other capital expenditures. The committee needs to continue assessing K-2's financial feasibility.
- Strategic Planning & Development:
    - Capital Campaign Committee: Campaign has raised $80k YTD
    - Land Sub Committee: No update
    - Head of School & Evaluation: Committee met with HOS for end of year performance evaluation and 2025-2026 goal planning

New Business @ 7:40pm

- Board will make nominations for roles and committees at next meeting
- Board will review calendar/dates for 2025/2026 Board Meetings

Closed Session @ 7:44pm

- On proper motion by S. Allaire and seconded by J. Leggett, the board unanimously approved to enter Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel issue.

- On proper motion by A. Monsees and seconded by S. Witty, the board unanimously approved to leave Closed Session.

The next board meeting is scheduled for July 22nd.

S. Allaire moved to adjourn, and A. Monsees seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.