



Meridian World School

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Meridian School

July 26, 2023

Agenda

Board Meeting

6:00 pm

Board Members present were Joe Burke, Scott Duff, Terri Johnson, Sofia O'Malley, and Tejal Bhalani. Absent were Alice Ortiz and Debbie Shepherd.

Staff present were Karalei Nunn, Founder & CEO; Eileen Kuhn, CFO; Jay Olivier, COO; Stela Holcombe, DP Principal; Crystal Lane, MYP Principal ; and Melissa Reese, PYP Principal.

Board Meeting

Order of Business

The Board intends to give citizens an opportunity to participate in the discussion of public business that is being considered and decided by the Board. In order to provide full information and the right of participation to the public, the following is the order of business for regular Board meetings. The presiding officer with the consensus of members present may change the order of business. Those interested in addressing the board may sign up at the board meeting prior to the start of the meeting at 6:00 pm. Comments should be limited to items posted on the agenda and be a maximum of three minutes. Comments that meet these criteria may be shared in person at the meeting under item 1. Public Comment.

Announcement by the chairperson as to the presence of a quorum and that the meeting has been duly called, and the notice of the meeting has been posted for time and in the manner required by law.

1. Public Comment (See above under Order of Business. Comments are limited to items on the agenda and to 3 minutes each with a total of 20 minutes total.)

There were no public comments

2. Acknowledgement and Disposition of Communication Addressed to the Board. ***Joe Burke, President***

Call to order / Pledge of Allegiance

Board Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm

3. **Executive Report** - Karalei Nunn, CEO

4. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of previous minutes - [May 18, 2023](#)
- b. [Enrollment Report](#)
- c. Approval of Continuous Resolution to name the Williamson County Extension Agent as adjunct staff members at Meridian School until or unless modified by the Board.
- d. [Financial Report 3rd QTR](#)

Suggested Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion made by Scott Duff to approve the Consent Agenda, but item C will be removed from Consent Agenda and postponed on vote until September Board Meeting. Seconded by Sofia O'Malley. Approved unanimously.

5. **Review [House Bill 1707 Municipal Fairness Bill](#) and consider for approval the [Board Resolution](#).**

Karalei Nunn, CEO

Suggested Motion: To approve the Board Resolution regarding the Municipal Fairness Bill.

Motion made by Terri Johnson to approve the Board Resolution regarding the Municipal Fairness Bill. Seconded by Scott Duff. Approved unanimously.

6 **Review and possible approval of revisions to the Employee Handbook, Eileen Kuhn, CFO**

Leave and Order of Usage (page 17)

Retirement (page 19)

Vacation (page 18)

See the [attached for specifics of proposed revisions](#).

Suggested Motion: To approve the revisions to the Employee Handbook as outlined in the attachment dated 07.23.2024.

Motion made by Tejal Bhalani to approve the revisions to the Employee Handbook as outlined in the attachment dated 07.23.2024. Seconded by Scott Duff. Approved unanimously.

7. **Review and possible approval of revising Meridian's Health Insurance Provider.** Eileen Kuhn, CFO

Background: 2022-2023 was our first year outside of TRS Active Care. With favorable rates, we chose to go TSHBP. Throughout the year, there was concern expressed by several staff members that the network was inadequate and the information provided often inaccurate. As it is a new program, we had intended to stay with it this year, however the rates announced for 2023-2024 ranged between 15 and 30%, raising monthly payments beyond Meridian's contribution of \$440 monthly. ,

Deductibles and out-of-pocket costs increased in all plans and one Aetna plan was dropped. Working with our Financial Benefits Services (FSB) agent, the third-party administrator, it was determined that other insurers, including CIGNA and United provided larger networks and comparable plans at lower rates.

After reviewing plans, we recommend enrolling in CIGNA.

See the [attached for additional details](#).

Suggested Motion: To terminate Meridian's participation in the Texas School Health Benefit Program (TSHBP) and contract with CIGNA Healthcare to provide health insurance benefits for staff.

Motion made by Sofia O'Malley to terminate Meridian's participation in the Texas School Health Benefit Program (TSHBP) and contract with Cigna Healthcare to provide health insurance benefits for staff. Seconded by Scott Duff. Approved unanimously.

8. **Review and possible approval of Sex-Ed Curriculum, "Rights, Respect, Responsibility":** Crystal Lane, MYP Principal

Background: Based upon the original recommendation from the Student Health Advisory Committee's (SHAC) and the approval of the Board, this curriculum was implemented in grades 7 and 8 in 2021-2022. Grades 6 and 10 were added last year. The original intent was to expand down to 4th and up to 10th this year. At this time, we are recommending it expand into 10th grade with grades 4 and 5 coming online in 2024-2025.

Suggested Motion: To approve the Sex Ed Curriculum "Rights, Respect, Responsibility" for grades 6-10 in 2023-2024.

9. **Review and possible approval of revisions to the Student/Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct,** Stela Holcombe, DP Principal

Background: Legislation that passed this last session made two changes that could have an impact on a school's code of conduct and discipline practices. For District Schools with DAEPs (Disciplinary Alternative Education Program), HB 114 makes possession and/or use of vapes a mandatory DAEP placement. Furthermore, it removes the current law requiring that felony and alcohol offenses are mandatory expulsions.

Because Meridian is a charter school without a DAEP program, we can create our own approach. However, recognizing that vaping is a significant problem for many students, we are choosing to

create harsher penalties for these offenses as noted in the revisions. At the same time, we recognize that because we do not have a DAEP, discipline regarding felony offenses is limited and therefore we are choosing to make these offenses a mandatory expulsion.

See [attached for proposed language changes](#).

Suggested Motion: To approve the revisions to the Student/Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct as outlined in the attached dated 07.23.2024.

Motion made by Scott Duff to approve the revisions to the Student/Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct as outlined in the attached 07.23.2024. Seconded by Terri Johnson. Approved unanimously.

10. Financial Accountability: Eileen Kuhn, Chief Financial Officer

a. [Budget Amendment #2](#)

Suggested Motion: To approve Budget Amendment #2 as presented.

Motion made by Terri Johnson to approve Budget Amendment #2 as presented. Seconded by Sofia O'Malley. Approved unanimously.

b. [Budget Adoption for new fiscal year](#)

Suggested Motion: To approve 2023-2024 Budget as presented.

Motion made by Sofia O'Malley to approve the 2023-2024 Budget as presented. Seconded by Scott Duff. Approved unanimously.

c. Audit Selection & Approval - Engagement Letter

Suggested Motion: To approve engagement of Mitchell T. Fontenote, CPA for 2023 fiscal year audit.

Motion made by Tejal Bhalani to approve engagement of Mitchell T. Fontenote, CPA for 2023 fiscal year audit. Seconded by Terri Johnson. Approved unanimously.

11. Discussion of School Safety House Bill 3 and the implementation of security personnel on campus.

Joe Burke discussed the importance of learning more about School Safety House Bill 3 with Board Members. Due diligence will be something the Board Members will need to take on when asked to consider the options of security personnel. No motion was made on Agenda item.

12. Training requirements, needs & opportunities for Board Members: Karalei Nunn

Board Training Opportunities

TPCSA - <https://quality.txcharterschools.org/training/home/>

For 23-24 training - [TPCSA Conference in Austin - September 27 Board Workshop](#) (conference is Sept. 25-27 and the detailed agenda is not posted yet, so I'm not sure on the exact date for the board training)

Board Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

End of Agenda

Next Meeting:

Regular Meeting: September 28, 2023

Notable Dates/Activities

July

New Teacher Orientation - 7.27 & 7.28

August

All Staff Returns - 08.01

School begins 08.09

STAAR Results released to Public

Fiscal Year End - 08.31

September

Labor Day - 09.05

Texas Charter School Conference - 09.25-09.27

Board Members & Terms

2023 - 2024 Joe Burke

2021 – 2024 Sofia O'Malley

2022 – 2025 Alice Ortiz

2023 - 2026 Tejal Bhalani

2023 - 2026 Scott Duff

2022 - 2025 Debbie Shepherd

2023 – 2026 Terri Johnson