

Mission Hill School
Governance Board meeting via Zoom
April 11, 2022

In Attendance:

Family Reps: Allison Cox (MHSGB Co-Chair), Lisa Treat, Lisa Jeanne Graf, Andrew Iliff, Trelane Clark, Virginie Esain
Absent: Charmaine Arthur

Student Reps: Ashton Armond, Beatrice Graf, Xavier Reyes
Absent: Latisha Smith, Elliot Walsh

Staff Reps: Matt Shuman, Joel Webb (MSHGB Co-Chair), Molly Marmanillo, Danny Flannery, Katherine Jenkins Djom, Roberta Udoh
Absent: Liana Cosgrove

Community Reps: Roberta Logan, Peggy Wiesenber, Joy Silverstein (MSHGB Secretary)
Absent: Alicia Carroll, Charlotte Spinkston

Observers: Grace Wai (School Superintendent), Karen Bonilla (Family Liaison), Bonnie Duncan (family), Carolyn & Jason Lewis (family), Amina Michel-Lord (staff), Adrienne D (?), Gayle (?), June Myers (?), Dianne Worrell (?), Meg Rotzel, Sung-Joon Pai (Hale)

Interpretation: Claudia (Portuguese), Frandy Mathieu (Haitian and Creole), Rene Parajon (Spanish), ____ (Somali), Lena Figueiredo (?)

Interpreters were introduced then asked in their own language if anyone needed their services tonight.

Meeting Norms

If you're a member of the Board, keep your video on. Otherwise it should be off and you should be on mute.

To speak, either raise your hand or use Chat.

We need our bylaws to state what we can do when we don't have a quorum. Board member and attorney Peggy W says we can meet but can't vote.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted that the Board approved the minutes of the March 1, 2022 meeting with 15 yays, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

Update of Emergency School Review

Although more than 100 people sent letters to BPS, more than 170 people signed an online petition to support the future of MHS, 36 staff members sent a letter to the Superintendent, and

many people testified at the School Committee meeting on April 6, the only reply was a letter that the Superintendent sent to the staff acknowledging that this is a difficult time.

There has also been no update on the staff that was let go except that their positions have been posted.

We are told that when any decisions have been made, the Board and the staff will be told first.

MAP data - to be discussed at the next meeting

School Leadership Search Committee

There were first and second stage interviews. No numbers are being shared yet but the candidates overall matched the percentages of diversity within the school.

On April 10, two (the possibly final) candidates 'met' about 35 families on Zoom. These candidates are coming into the school this week for a 35 minute focus group with staff, then getting a tour of the school, and then there will be a 35 minute focus group with students from 3rd to 8th grade.

It was pointed out that at least 2 teachers are not able to participate in these focus groups because there is no coverage for their classes, although these will not take place during instructional time but before school or during lunch.

If the Search Committee decides, after the focus groups, on neither of these candidates, or if the Superintendent doesn't approve the final candidate proposed by the committee, then the committee will return to the pool of candidates and start again.

Hale partnership

This was originally scheduled to end by April 30 but there are more ESSR funds that can be used through June, and this would work logistically and financially if there were 2 Hale staff instead of 3.

Dr Wei also says that we can get an extension so that the ESSR funds are available until August 31.

YMCA partnership

This will be for afterschool 2022-2023. They know how to work with BPS and can tailor their programs to our needs.

Families pay on a sliding scale so there is no cost to MHS.

There are questions about the age of the children participating (3?, 4?, 5?)

So far 38 families representing 56 students are interested, but flyers are still going out.

Bylaws Committee

The BPS manual has to be considered along with the Autonomous Schools manual. There will probably be a vote taken on any revisions at our next meeting.

Personnel Committee

There are interviews ongoing through April for a Science Specialist and an Inclusion Specialist, and some teachers.

The position of Director of Operations needs a job description. Faculty are leading this; there is an Operations Team and school business meetings. The new Principal should also be involved.

Other business

A request was made to include on the agenda for the next meeting a discussion of field trips to The Farm School.

Next meeting will be May 9.

Respectfully submitted by Joy Silverstein, MHSGB Secretary