



Meridian PCS Board Meeting  
November 12, 2019  
Approved Minutes

**Board Members in attendance**

Karen Rivas  
Edie Ashton  
Mahmia Richards  
Justin Dulguid  
Annie Hsiao  
Payson Peabody  
Steve Percy

**Meridian PCS**

Matt McCrea  
Ariel Weissburg  
Michael Russell

**TenSquare Team Members** (Departed After Leadership Update)

Alexandra Pardo  
Janalee Jordan-Meldrum

Board Chair, Edie Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

I. Minutes

Karen Rivas moved to approve the minutes. Annie Hsiao seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. New Employee Policies Approval

Matt McCrea and Michael Russell discussed the revised employee policies. The revisions have been reviewed by lawyers. Payson Peabody moved to approve the revised policies. Steve Percy seconded. The revised policies were approved unanimously.

III. Leadership update

A. Schoolwide report – Citywide PMF scores were released and Meridian scores were roughly in the middle, with exceptional growth. The head of school reported that the HR manager had resigned and a search was underway for a new HR director.

B. Elementary School report – First term is coming to a close.

C. Middle School report – An open house for rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders was held with alumni attending other schools to help prepare for transition. It was reported that 17 graduating students were accepted to a Tier 1 or selective high school last year.

D. Operations report – Audit underway, report will be submitted late at auditor's request.

Michael Russell reported that Meridian's financials are on track and we expect to realize a \$5.13m surplus by year end. No major changes from the trajectory last reported to the Board.

IV. Committee reports

A. Academic Performance – Committee met and visited elementary school classrooms and reviewed

first test scores. Schedule for remainder of year will follow the calendar of test results. There was a brief discussion of the upcoming expiration of Meridian's contract with TenSquare and the anticipated transition.

B. Governance – Conflict of Interest forms will be signed by new members. A prospective new board member may be up for board vote at the next meeting after meeting with Matt and several board members.

#### V. Facility Discussion

A. There are five possible buildings under consideration:

- 770 Kenyon Street (former Cesar Chavez middle school);
- 705 Edgewood St NE;
- 1763 Columbia Rd which would require a build-out;
- 1375 Missouri Ave. (LAMB School); and
- 802 Rhode Island Avenue (Calvary Academy).

B. The Board of Cesar Chavez approved Meridian's proposal to take over the lease on the Kenyon St. property. All board members were polled to determine if there was any conflict of interest and there were none.

Matthew McCrea reminded the Board of the parent survey results regarding the Middle School. Parents expressed an interest in having better facilities, including a gymnasium or other sports facilities, and a "middle school feel." McCrea also related information from his meeting with DC Council Ward 1 Representative Breanne Nadeau who is supportive of Meridian's bid to return the Kenyon Street property to educational use.

Steve Percy moved to move forward with securing a new middle school facility, seconded by Payson Peabody. The motion to move forward passed unanimously.

Annie Hsiao moved to establish a committee of Peabody, Gent, Richards, Ashton, and Percy to pursue and authorize the facility by unanimous committee vote; otherwise, in the event the committee could not reach unanimous agreement, the matter would be brought before the whole Meridian Board. Mahmia Richards seconded the motion and the motion to form the committee passed unanimously.

Board Chair, Edie Ashton, adjourned the regular portion of the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

The board then moved into Executive Session.