



SHINING STARS
MONTESSORI ACADEMY
— PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL —

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

A virtual meeting of the Board of Trustees (hereafter the “**Board**”) of Shining Stars Montessori Academy Public Charter School (hereafter “**Shining Stars**” or “**School**”) was held on Saturday, September 18, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Call to Order

Mr. Anthony King (Board Chair), called the meeting to order. R. Rodriguez recorded the minutes.

Agenda

1. Introduction
 - a. Welcome to the public
 - i. The meeting was held virtually via Google Meet.
 - b. Roll Call/Attendance
 - i. Anthony King, Esq. (Chair)
 - ii. Willa Golden
 - iii. Tatiana Laborde (Parent)
 - iv. Aldel Brown
 - v. Regina Rodriguez-Garcia (ex-officio)
 - vi. Kamal Wright-Cunningham
 - vii. Teischa Harris (Parent)
 - c. Missing Board Members
 - i. Shawn Samuel
 - d. Establish Quorum
 - i. A quorum of directors was present, and the meeting, having been convened, proceeded with the business.
2. Old Business
 - a. Vote to approve – June 26, 2021, Board of Director Minutes
 - i. No comments from Board members
 - ii. Chair moved to accept and approve Board of Directors meeting minutes
 - iii. Motion to accept and approve made by Kamal Wright-Cunningham
 - iv. Second by Willa Golden
 - v. An I from Kamal Wright-Cunningham, Tatiana Laborde, Aldel Brown, and, Willa Golden

- vi. June 26, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes unanimously approved by the Board.
3. Public Comment
 - a. This time is reserved for citizens, employees, and representatives of school groups to address the Board on items that are not on the agenda. By law, the Board cannot take action upon or discuss items that are not on the approved agenda, but welcomes your comments. Persons addressing the Board are asked to state their names and whether or not they are a resident of the District. The Board Chair reserves the right to limit comments from the public as well as the amount of time spent on any one topic.
 - i. The September 18, 2021, meeting of the Board was open to the public.
 - ii. There were no members of the public present.
 4. Executive Director's Monthly Summary Report
 - a. Academic
 - i. ARC Program (reading program)
 - a. We want to have some additional literacy specialists, to be able to make sure we are implementing that with fidelity.
 - b. Non-Academic
 - i. COVID-19 Updates
 1. Everyone is being informed as to what the School is supporting and putting forth as policy.
 2. Like other charter schools, Shining Stars had a site visit from PCSB consultants. Recommendations were made on some ways the School can improve, i.e., adding another isolation room for symptomatic students, making improvements to the current isolation room (e.g., switch out the isolation room door), and to look a little closer at our arrival and dismissal, etc.
 - ii. Staff Initiated Program
 1. Proposal – Young Ladies with Purpose
 - a. Staff advisor will be Mrs. Cherita Moore-Gause.
 - b. It is a continuation of a program from SY2019-2020.
 - c. It is an all-girl program for upper elementary students.
 - d. The School is looking to start a similar program for upper elementary boys.
 - e. The program is well received.
 - iii. Discipline
 1. No suspensions or expulsions for SY2020-2021.
 - iv. Enrollment
 1. Enrollment EoY 2020-2021: 288 students enrolled, which was 5 less than what the School wanted to have.
 - a. For SY2021-2022, the School's target is 288, at this time we have 271 students enrolled, with the possibility that students will move around and come in. We have parents of students who do not want in person learning. If they are not able to have a virtual option, they are deciding to stay home.

2. Demographics: School has asked EdOps to specifically pull the data by the racial and ethnic categories.
 - a. Of the Montessori schools, Shining Stars has the largest African American population.
3. Special Education
 - a. For SY2020-2021, the School had 13 percent. Shining Stars also had the largest number of special education students.
 - b. 6th grade shows the highest percentage of Special Education students; however, 6th grade only has 5 students enrolled.
 - c. Third and Fourth grades have the highest number of SpEd students, with both having 8 SpEd students.
 - d. LEP Students
 1. At-Risk – the largest percentage of at-risk students were in 2nd grade (41%) and 5th grade (45%, the lowest was in PK-3 (18%).
- v. Virtual Schedule
 1. All schools are required to provide a virtual schedule and option for students who have been approved as medically eligible. The approval comes from OSSE. Currently, we have no students who have received this approval. We do have children who are at home because they are quarantining.
 - a. At the moment, we have about 25 children in the virtual option.
- vi. Attendance
 1. We want to be at 93% for in-seat attendance on a monthly basis.
 2. For SY21-22, from August to September in-seat attendance is at 70 percent.
 3. Chronic Absenteeism – The chronic absenteeism rate for SY20-21 was 8% higher than the final rate for SY19-20.
 - a. Mid-Year Withdrawals – 16 total withdrawals since enrollment audit. There have been withdrawals in the following grades since October 5th through May 31st:
 1. PK3 - 2
 2. PK4 - 6
 3. Kindergarten - 3
 4. 1st grade - 1
 5. 2nd grade - 2
 6. 3rd grade - 1
 7. 5th grade - 1
- vii. Personnel
 1. School's Updated Health and Safety Plan and COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate
 - a. The School will create an exemption request form, to be completed by employees who are requesting a religious exemption from the COVID-19 vaccination mandate.

2. Vaccination Update – Staff
 - a. August 2021 – letter was sent to staff to determine vaccination status.
 - b. All staff are required to be vaccinated by September 30, 2021.
 - c. Accommodation will be made for staff claiming medical or religious exemption. These employees will be required to test weekly.
 - d. Staff who are already vaccinated will be required to test bi-weekly.
 - e. Percentage of staff currently vaccinated – 86 percent.
 3. COVID testing program will be handled by ShieldT3, a vendor that will invoice OSSE directly, not Shining Stars. Testing will be done at the school.
 4. We have new staff, most of whom are in the Dual Immersion program.
 5. Shining Stars is continuing to recruit for additional operations staff and Lower Elementary Guides.
- c. Montessori Afterschool Program (MAP)
 - i. Currently, there are 55 students enrolled, there are 5 students that are receiving scholarship for this program (these are all families who documented TANF, SNAP or particular hardships).
 - d. Technology
 - i. All Guides and Classroom Assistants have either a MacBook or a Chromebook and all students have been given a Chromebook to take and keep at home. Additionally, there are Chromebooks and/or iPads in classrooms for each student to use.
 - ii. There are Owls in 6 classrooms.
 - iii. Every classroom is fitted with a webcam.
 - iv. All students are issued a Google account.
 - e. Financials
 - i. Grant Allocations – one of the things we work as a leadership team is to look out over 3 years, how best, strategically, to use these funds to support students, where we are most in need, and programs for our struggling students and advanced learners.
 - ii. Previously, we have used a lot of the federal funds for salaries, to reduce the stress on our general operating. We have also used these funds for our technology and some technology upgrades that support learning.
 - iii. Days of cash
 1. 60 days of cash is the industry standard and what the Charter Board requires.
 2. In the June 2021 financials, we ended the year with 203 days of cash.
 - f. Facilities Update
 - i. The School has upgraded its PA system, so it can be heard throughout the building. It will also be used for morning notices and birthday messages.

And, the children, with supervision, will be allowed to make announcements to deliver messages to their classmates about upcoming events.

- ii. Outdoor Drains – because of the rain, there has been some flooding, getting under the floorboards on the lower level. We have put sandbags outside.

5. New Business

a. June 2021 Financial Statement

- i. No comments from Board members
- ii. Chair moved to accept and approve June 2021 financial statement
- iii. Motion to proceed by Tatiana Laborde
- iv. Second by Teischa Harris
- v. An I from Willa Golden, Aldel Brown, Kamal Wright-Cunningham, Tatiana Laborde, and Teischa Harris
- vi. June 2021 Financial statement unanimously approved by the Board for submission and publication.

6. Members Report

- a. No member reports.

7. Closing Items

a. Adjourn Meeting

- i. There being no further business to come before the members, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair.