



Meridian Public Charter School
October 26, 2021 Board Meeting
DRAFT MINUTES

Board Members in attendance

Mahmia Richards
Payson Peabody
Keith Collins
Ali Semir
Edie Ashton
Justin Duiguid
Steve Percy
Karen Rivas

Meridian Staff in attendance

Michael Russell
Shelly Anderson
Duray Stevens
Matthew McCrea
Phillip McMahan

Ten Square Staff in attendance

Jeff Cooper
Alexandra Pardo
Janalee Jordan-Meldrum

I. Call to Order

Edie Ashton welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested a motion to come to order at 5:34 PM. Karen Rivas moved that the meeting come to order. Ali Semir seconded the motion. Roll call: In favor: Mahima Richards, Keith Collins, Ali Semir, Edie Ashton, Payson Peabody, Justin Duiguid, Karen Rivas. Opposed: None. The motion passed to bring meeting to order.

II. Approval of Agenda

Edie Ashton requested a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. Mahima Richards to approve the meeting agenda. Keith Collins seconded the motion. In favor: Payson Peabody, Mahima Richards, Keith Collins, Ali Semir, Edie Ashton, Justin Duiguid, and Karen Rivas. Opposed: None. The motion passed to approve the meeting agenda.

III. Consent Agenda

Approval of August 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Edie Ashton requested a motion to approve August 2021 Board Minutes. Payson Peabody moved that the August 2021 Board Meeting Minutes be approved. Ali Semir seconded the motion. Roll Call. In Favor: Mahima Richards, Payson Peabody, Edie Ashton, Justin Duiguid, Keith Collins, Ali Semir, and Karen Rivas. Opposed: None. The motion passed to approve the August 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approval of Board Member Term Renewals

Edie Ashton requested a motion to approve the Renewal of Board Member Terms. Payson Peabody moved that the Renewal of Board Member Terms be approved. Ali Semir seconded the motion. Roll Call. In Favor: Mahima Richards, Payson Peabody, Edie Ashton, Justin Duiguid, Keith Collins, Ali Semir, and Karen Rivas. Opposed: None. The motion passed to approve the Renewal of Board Member Terms.

Election of Board Officers

Edie Ashton requested a motion to approve the slate of Board Officers. Payson Peabody moved that the slate of Board Officers be approved. Ali Semir seconded the motion. Roll Call. In Favor: Mahima Richards, Payson Peabody, Edie Ashton, Justin Duiguid, Keith Collins, Ali Semir, and Karen Rivas. Opposed: None. The motion passed to approve the slate of Board Officers.

V. School Leadership Updates

Duray Stevens, Elementary School Principal, described the school's celebrations of Hispanic Heritage month which included the annual Pulsera Project bracelet sale. He also shared photos from Homecoming week which included a Fun Friday that celebrated Meridian's core values.

Shelly Anderson, Middle School Principal, shared more Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations at the school which included zumba classes with the school's counselor. She described how the staff is using the Crew structure to build relationships and prepare for using the structure with their students.

Matthew McCrea described Covid's impact on school operations, academically and socially, this year. Most staff members are vaccinated. Staff have extended sick leave to deal with Covid-related illnesses. 20% of students with parental consent are tested every week with ability to increase to 50% within budget. Classes have been quarantined when cases are reported and transition to virtual during quarantine period, but it does disturb rhythm and momentum of learning. Middle School class sizes have been reduced. Arrival and Dismissal has been moved outdoors with ID check for adults picking up students. Parent meetings are held online.

Matthew McCrea shared data for the opening of school. Enrollment of 621 students, more than last year, with larger 6th and 7th grade classes. Attendance is lower than in pre-covid years, but better than last year, a trend that other schools report as well. MAP scores lower for mathematics in all grades, and language skills dropped for some grades due to home instruction year.

Operations and Finance. Staffing in student support fields is challenging. New literacy grant supports new positions and has freed funds for other positions.

VI. Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mahima Richards noted the annual audit was in progress with new audit firm. September financials are solid, especially with new multi-year literacy grant.

Academic Committee – Karen Rivas reported that the Committee reviewed MAP scores and attendance numbers in depth and discussed with school leadership ways of improving performance.

Governance Committee – Payson Peabody reported that the major projects for the committee this year will include crafting a Head of School accountability process, a new board member introduction packet, and a survey of board satisfaction and effectiveness

VII. Next Board Meeting, January 25, 2022

VIII. Adjournment

Eddie Ashton requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Percy made a motion to adjourn. Mahima Richards seconded the motion. Roll Call. In favor: Mahima Richards, Keith Collins, Ali Semir, Eddie Ashton, Justin Duiguid, Payson Peabody, Steve Percy, and Karen Rivas. Opposed: None.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM.