

MSC Board Minutes

Jan 28, 2025

The MSC Board met this date in person in Building B of the school campus. Participating members and guests included: Ginny Warren, Chanda Booker, Sarah McCants, Mary Lucas, Dave Barbeau, Bridgett Shealey (attended virtually), Misty Dickson, William Lamb, Erin Knox-Boyd, Leslie Greene. Kobie Wilkerson signed in virtually at 6:57pm.

The chairman called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

David Barbeau made a motion to approve board meeting minutes from 11.19.2024; Mary Lucas seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

David Barbeau made a motion to approve board meeting minutes from 12.11.2024; Mary Lucas seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mary Lucas Open time for questions/feedback from non-Board members in attendance- all guests (William Lamb, Misty Dickson, and Sarah McCants made introductions)

Next, Leslie Greene gave her Head of School Update:

- 2025/2026 Enrollment Update

William Lamb indicated that he liked the docusign feature. Sarah McCants indicated that there was some confusion with both parents needing to sign before it was submitted but that had been resolved

Leslie reviewed numbers of applications:

- 17 sibling applicants
- 37 3 K
- 9 4k
- 4 5k
- 8 LE
- 1 Upper Ele.

Financial aid: 13 applications/13 awards offered/12 accepted

There will be 2 faculty discounts next year.

New enrollment offers will be given after re-enrollment deadline (2/7)

Leslie discussed sending out letters of intent for planning purposes (employment contracts will go out in the spring as usual) (lead teachers, assistants, administrators, hourly school day- it is nonbinding). All are returning with the exception of music teacher, Cat Galan, who is moving to Nashville to pursue her music career.

- Community Surveys: Leslie indicated that she would like this to be yearly in the spring to capture currently enrolled families as well. Leslie questioned if the Board wants to send an annual survey. Mary Lucas proposed the board survey focusing on a staff survey.

Leslie discussed exit surveys for both staff and families who are not returning administered by administration that would be available to the board.

Dave clarified that board administered staff surveys would only be shared with the board.

- Head of School and Board Evaluations: Leslie has done research with AMS, SAIS, her administrator group, and will compile options of templates.

- Leslie shared that a succession plan has been recommended during our Accreditation process and will compile some ideas.

Leslie discussed a Strategic Planning Event by the end of year or this summer. She discussed having a facilitator and/or a note taker. In the past, lead teachers were required. William discussed the approach with his department that has evolved into several meetings across months. Leslie discussed a pre-survey. Mary Lucas indicated that perhaps folding them into the staff survey from the board. A timeline for rolling out working on a strategic plan was discussed- waiting until next fall is too long, but summer also is difficult for board/staff being available. Dave introduced the idea of parent involvement. Dates were discussed: March 29th with a backup of April 4th for a Strategic Planning Event. Leslie will ask around to other Montessori programs for facilitators. The board will send out a save the date to staff.

- School Closing Policies

Leslie asked for feedback with liability concerns and what agencies to follow. Mary suggested Richland County Government may be a guidepost. Also extending an excused absence if families do not feel it is safe to navigate to school.

- Mary discussed Board Member Acquisition with board members serving on the committee (with the exception of Chanda and Kobie) - working with the goal of new board member recruitment taking place in the spring 2025. Leslie will share document that lists past and present board members terms and officer roles.

2. Board Items

- Sixth Grade Retention

Erin indicated that they have tried information sessions, previous 6th graders providing information sessions, opened classrooms up to rising 6th graders, etc.

- i. Historic Data- was reviewed

- ii. Strategies- conversations that the addition of middle school would be more motivating than a financial incentive. The social pool and athletic opportunities were also discussed. Discussion was had about an information video. Bridgette indicated that she has had discussions with parents that they want a clearer understanding of their child's academic performance and where they are academically that the school does not provide. Bridgette also discussed assistance for transition after 6th grade. Sarah talked about the academic performance data that is collected

through MAP testing every year. Kobie asked if there is a number that is needed to make continuing financially feasible. Mary asked when Andrea would be middle school certified- Leslie believes summer of 2026. The Highschool League allows Homeschool and charter school students to play sports for their zoned public school. Mary will look into the legislative history and also would be willing to lead the charge for appealing the SC League if needed. Sarah also cited challenges and current ways to assist with honors/AP placement.

Campus work days being reintroduced.

Sarah discussed outreach that has been done- Vista Lights, Pride, upcoming school fair at Brookland Baptist.

Discussion around addition of toddler programs and the initial investment vs. the demand. The demand is there.

Campus Improvements: Dave discussed the amount of sand that generates dust on campus and needs to reduce exposure. Leslie discussed involving parents who are landscape architects. William offered to look at storm water drainage.

At 8:22 Ginny Warren made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dave seconded the motion; all in attendance were in agreement.