

MILLENNIUM CHARTER ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
April 25, 2017

The Board of Directors for Millennium Charter Academy met in regular session on Tuesday, April 25th 2017 at 5:30 pm. Those Directors present included Ken Gwyn, David Hiatt, Greg Marshall, Rene Francis, Susan Shipley, Christopher Willingham, Mark Hampton and Marty Danley. Headmaster Kirby McCrary was also present for the meeting. Ken Gwyn called the meeting to order, Kirby McCrary led the Board in an Invocation and Renee Francis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon motion of Greg Marshall, seconded by Mark Hampton, the March 2017 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Adoption of Proposed Agenda: Upon the motion of Mark Hampton and Seconded by Christopher Willingham the proposed agenda was unanimously approved with the addition of “Security” to New Business and Makerspace to High School Development.

Public Comment: Mark Hampton discussed Pinnacle bus stop safety. Traffic pattern will be investigated to determine if there are safer options.

Report of Affiliated Organizations: MPACT report attached.

Report of the Headmaster: Kirby McCrary presented the Headmaster’s Report, emphasizing the following items:

- Mr. McCrary recommends for hire **Gino Peluso** to teach U/S history. He will graduate in April of this year from Chatham University in Pennsylvania with a B.A in history and a teaching license. He remained on the dean’s list all four years of college. He is clearly enthusiastic about teaching and especially about teaching at MCA. One reference said he was confident that no other candidate we interview would surpass Mr. Peluso’s work ethic, commitment, and leadership qualities. Another said he has the ability to be “an educational leader,” and “that he works tirelessly to prepare a lesson to ensure that he knew every aspect of the material so that he could challenge the students each day.” Others commented on his rapport with students and parents. He also has the support of those from MCA who interviewed him. In addition to history, he is interested in drama and coaching sports.
- Mr. McCrary recommends for hire **José Donabo** to serve as MCA’s second Spanish teacher. He comes most recently from Surry County Schools and with fifteen years’ experience. He has a North Carolina teaching license and a B.A. in Spanish and Criminal Justice from Radford College with second language experience through Middlebury College in Vermont. He is interested in MCA specifically because of the school’s vision. He brings with him the valid and unique way of teaching a second language through reading and literature. His references speak highly of him, and the MCA faculty who interviewed him speak well of him.
- Mr. McCrary recommends for hire **Madison Fregia** to teach in the elementary grades. Originally from Surry County, she is coming from Lonnie Jackson Academy in Columbus, Georgia where she has been teaching fifth grade for her first year in the profession. During the course of the year, she was named lead teacher of her grade level and the culmination of one of her lessons was presented to the entire school. She engages students through hands-on activities and her enthusiasm. She pushes all students to learn regardless of their ability, and when faced with struggling students, she analyzes the known information to determine the specific area of weakness, and then addresses those areas. She has a BS in elementary education from Appalachian State University and is licensed in North Carolina. Those who interviewed her, Michael Reeves, Lower School Director, Claire Draughn, fifth grade teacher, Kaitlyn Gough, fourth grade teacher, and Mr. McCrary, stand behind this recommendation.
- Mr. McCrary recommends for hire **Michelle Allred** to serve in the elementary grades. She is currently at the Ridgecrest Elementary Center for Gifted Students in Largo, Florida where she works with students in reading. She is familiar with tiered instruction, an essential skill with changes that are coming to the North Carolina public schools. She is also well acquainted with Four Blocks literacy and Fountas and Pinnell reading assessment, both used at MCA. She has also taught kindergarten and first grades. Her Masters in Educational Leadership is from the University of South Florida and her Bachelor degree is from UNC-Greensboro. Those interviewing Mrs. Allred,

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Michael Reeves, Lower School Director, Jessica Flowers, third grade teacher, Megan Sizemore, third grade teacher, and Mr. McCrary support her hire.

- Mr. McCrary recommends for hire **Patty Bare** to serve as MCA's first finance officer. She has an AAS in accounting from Surry Community College. She is a notary and is also a certified payroll professional. For the past twelve years, Mrs. Bare has served as the payroll manager for Debbie's Staffing Services in Winston-Salem where she oversees and processes 5,000 weekly payroll checks. She handles payroll deductions and is responsible for filing weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual payroll taxes for eight states. She processes 15,000 W2 forms each year. She reconciles five bank accounts monthly and assists with quarterly audits. Mrs. Bare also supervises several employees at Debbie's Staffing. Mrs. Bare is also a grandparent of two children at MCA.
- **Pepper Rotenizer** who has served MCA since 2005, first as librarian and most recently as upper school office manager, resigned April 18 due to personal health concerns. She would easily be recognized as one of the most, if not the most dedicated to her work at MCA.
- To further strengthen the language arts instruction in the lower school, the administration and staff are considering the **Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)** program. This is a comprehensive kindergarten – fifth grade program for teaching skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, building on the students' knowledge and vocabulary in literature, history, geography, and science. There is positive correlation between CKLA and what the school employs now, Four Blocks literacy, 6+1 Writing, *Paideia*, and Teaching with the End in Mind. Joy Parsons, kindergarten teacher, Megan Sizemore, third grade teacher, Kim Kirkman, fifth grade teacher, Michael Reeves, Lower School Director, and Mr. McCrary will visit Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy Grammar School on April 26 to see it in action.
- Five of MCA's upper schoolers will speak on May 5 at a press conference held by Senator Tillman at the NC Legislative Building in honor of National Charter School Week.

After some discussion and upon the motion of Mark Hampton, seconded by Susan Shipley, the Board unanimously approved the hiring of Gina Peluso, Jose Donabo, Madison Fregia, Michelle Allred, and Patty Bare.

Report of Standing Committees:

Greg Marshall gave a combined Treasurer and Finance Committee report.

Board Development: None

High School Development: Greg Marshall provided an updated status of Phase II construction. Upon the motion of Christopher Willingham and seconded by Greg Marshall, the Board unanimously approved to engage Workplace Design for interior design services for Phase II construction including furniture selection.

Ken Gwyn reported the City of Mt. Airy was in discussions concerning the building of a Makerspace.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Upon the motion Christopher Willingham and seconded by Susan Shipley, the Board unanimously approved the establishment of a Scholarship in honor of Headmaster Kirby McCrary. \$10,900 will be set aside to fund the Scholarship. Greg Marshal will transfer the money to a new account and notify LBA Haynes Strand.

The Board unanimously approved the motion of Christopher Willingham, seconded by Marty Danley, that the Board enter into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11(a)(6).

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Following the appropriate motion within Closed Session, the Board returned to Open Session. Upon the motion of Mark Hampton and seconded by Greg Marshall the Board unanimously approved to take recommended action on Item 1.

Upon the motion of Ken Gwyn and seconded by David Hiatt, the Board approved to take recommended action on Item 2. Renee Francis abstained from voting on Item 2.

David Hiatt reported it had been brought to his attention that some staff members were feeling threatened by recent parent encounters. Mr. McCrary discussed the details surrounding the recent encounters. General school security was also discussed. No further Board action will be taken at this time.

The Board unanimously approved the motion of Susan Shipley, seconded by Greg Marshall, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Marty Danley

Attachments: Headmaster's Report, Agenda, MPACT Report



**Headmaster's
Report 4-25-17.pdf**



Agenda 4-25-17.pdf



**MPACT Report
Apr.docx**