



**Meridian Public Charter School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Draft Minutes  
February 24, 2018**

**M & T Bank  
1350 I Street NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005**

Present:

Nick Gent

Payson Peabody, Secretary

Annie Hsaio

Sarah Sanchez

Chris Daniels

Steve Percy, Treasurer

TenSquare/Meridian PCS:

Janalee Jordan-Meldrum

Jeff Cooper

Alexandra Pardo

Note: Nick Gent chaired the meeting in Edie Ashton's absence.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm.

I. Review & Approve December Minutes

Sarah Sanchez moved that the December minutes be approved, Annie Hsaio seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. Meridian PCS Update

A. Discussion of Status of Charter Goals

DCPCSB looked at the impact of the PMF changes discussed at last Meridian Board meeting. In light of evidence about the disproportionate impact that the changes would likely have on a number of schools, PCSB staff will recommend that the changes be reversed and that SY16-17 PMF floors and targets remain in place. Public Charter School Board Members are expected to vote to approve the staff recommendation, in part, because the impact was found to be much greater than PCSB anticipated it would be. TenSquare contributed to educating PCSB about the impact of the changes.



## B. Progress Towards PMF Goals for FY17-18

Pardo reported on Meridian's current progress toward achieving our PMF targets. There was a discussion of the Data Dashboard and the work that is being done to improve student achievement—including providing interventions and supports to students. Teachers and leaders are using MAP data (MAP tests were administered in fall and winter), along with prior year PARCC data, and formative assessment data, to analyze student progress. Results indicate that Meridian students are demonstrating growth in middle school; growth has been slower at the elementary school level.

## C. Charter Amendment

There was a discussion of the Board leaders' meeting with DCPCSB Board Vice Chair Don Soifer and PCSB staff members Naomi DeVeaux and Hannah Cousino. As a result of the meeting, a recommendation to amend Meridian's PMF as Goals Policy was developed.

Meridian Board members discussed the amendment. The amendment would adopt the recently revised PCSB PMF as Goals policy, which calls for an average PMF score of 50 over the course of the five-year review period (for schools that have been in operation for at least 15 years). Currently, Meridian's PMF as Goals policy requires that Meridian achieve a PMF score of 55 in the last two years preceding the review. PCSB has discretion to approve schools showing improvement.

Chris Daniels made a motion to approve the Amendment. Steve Pearcy seconded.

The motion to approve the Amendment in the materials was approved unanimously; Board Chair, Edie Ashton, voted for the change by proxy.

There was a discussion about the need to follow up with the PCSB Board in light of expected changes to the membership and leadership of the PCSB Board. It was agreed that the School will follow up.

## D. Operations Update

### 1) HR/Benefits Revisions

It was noted by Jeff Cooper that Meridian has selected Cigna as its new healthcare provider, based on costs and services provided, and with input from Meridian staff members.

### 2) Facilities/IT

The School is upgrading security cameras, phones, and lighting, and is installing AED machines.

## E. Approval of Chong Contract



The School recommended that the Board approve a small contract for Demaris Chong for the reasons explained in the attached Chong Memo (per the school's Conflict of Interest policy). The memo reports that the proposal is reasonable, appropriate, and will meet the School's needs. Ms. Chong's services are less expensive than comparable services.

Demaris Chong is the mother of Ms. Best who is Director of Student Support at the School. The School looked at other options and determined that this option is more reasonably priced than other options available. Comparable services are between \$75-\$125/hour.

Chris Daniels moved that the contract be approved. Sarah Sanchez seconded. The contract was approved unanimously by voice vote.

#### F. Monthly Financials

The Board reviewed the financial data presented by the School. The Finance Committee noted that the financials are in-line with budget with no extraordinary items. We are expecting to have 90 days of cash on hand at year end at the current rate of spending, an improvement over previous reports.

#### III. Meeting Schedule

The Board agreed to return to meeting on a monthly basis (as part of the Board's current Visioning work) and to have meetings on the following dates:

- March 20<sup>th</sup>
- April 24<sup>th</sup>
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- June 19<sup>th</sup>

All meetings will be from 6 to 7:30pm, except for the May and June meetings which will run from 6 to 8pm.

The meeting adjourned at 3:54pm.