



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

Board Members in attendance

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

Meridian Staff in attendance

Michael Russell
Shelley 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 Dulguid, Karen Rivas. Opposed: None. The motion passed to bring the meeting to order.

II. Approval of Agenda

Edie Ashton requested a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. Mahima Richards moved to approve the meeting agenda. Keith Collins seconded the motion. In favor: Payson Peabody, Mahima Richards, Keith Collins, Ali Semir, Edie Ashton, Justin Dulguid, 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 Dulguid, 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 for 3 years for the following Board Members: Justin Dulguid, Steve Percy, and Ali Semir. Payson Peabody moved that the Renewal of Board Member Terms be approved. Keith Collins seconded the motion. Roll Call. In Favor: Mahima Richards, Payson Peabody, Edie Ashton, Justin Dulguid, 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: Edie Ashton, Chair; Mahmia Richards, Treasurer; Steve Percy, Secretary. 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 Dulguid, 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.

Matt McCrea, Head of School, described Covid's impact on school operations, academically and socially, this year. Almost all staff members have been fully vaccinated. Meridian has also granted staff extended sick leave to deal with Covid-related illnesses. Meridian is testing 20% of students weekly. Students are quarantining when in close contact with others who have tested positive. Though virtual learning is available, the rhythm and momentum of learning has been disturbed. Arrival and dismissal have been moved outdoors, with ID checks for adults picking up students. Parent meetings are held online.

McCrea also shared data for the opening of school. Enrollment of 621 students, an increase from 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. Fall MAP scores were lower for mathematics in all grades, and ELA scores dropped for some grades due to virtual home-based instruction last year.

Operations and Finance. Staffing in student support fields is challenging. Meridian's new literacy grant provides support for new positions and has freed funds for other positions as well. .

VI. Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mahima Richards noted the annual audit was in progress with a new audit firm. September financials are solid, especially with the 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 looking at the Head of School accountability process, creating a new board member introduction packet, and developing a survey of board satisfaction and effectiveness

VII Next Board Meeting, January 25, 2022 (postponed to February 22, 2022, due to the Head of School being out on Paternity Leave. 0

VIII Adjournment

Edie 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, Edie Ashton, Justin Dulguid, Payson Peabody, Steve Percy, and Karen Rivas. Opposed: None.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM.