

MEHP Governance Board Meeting

March 22, 2023

9:30am

AGENDA

Board Members Present: Keith King, Hal North, Alexia Phinizey, Keith Sanford, Tammy Swenson, Sue Anne Wells, Dalya Qualls White, Tom White

Faculty/Staff Present: Sandra Baker, Maria Gilchrist, Jeanne Hinchee, Elaine Swafford, Yolanda Williams

I. Welcome – Sue Anne Wells

- Sue Anne welcomed everyone.
- Spring break is coming soon. Winter was a little tough for everyone so the break should be exciting.
- Yolanda Williams is our interim principal for MEHP.
- Thank you to everyone who attended Odyssey.
- CGLA graduation is May 12th at 6pm and there will be a Kindergarten promotion at MEHP.
- We could use another person in education to add to the board. If you have a recommendation let us know.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes from the January 18th Board Meeting – Sue Anne

- Tom White motioned to approve board meeting minutes, Alexia Phinizey seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Agenda Review – Sue Anne Wells

- Sue Anne asked board members ‘how can we know more about you or how can we partner with you or your organization?’
- Keith S.- We would like to have you all partner with the aquarium.
- We would love to have you all at the courthouse if it is age appropriate. 4th grade could possibly do a tour next year.
- Unum likes to be involved in the community.
- Alexia state that today is dress for success day. It may be good for the students to see what it looks like in the business setting.
- Team Blue volunteers is willing to serve any place that they can volunteer
- Keith made note that the Aquarium is able to waive the entrance fee for students that receive free/reduced lunch.
- The Creative Discovery Museum has a great program and new exhibits that are great.
- Chattanooga State has a robust theater program.

IV. Director's Report – School Updates, Looking Ahead...Elaine Swafford

V. Principal's Report – Yolanda Williams

- Principals and academic team is visiting classrooms to provide support.
- Teachers are visiting each other to see what other rooms are like and things can be implemented.
- We will have an onsite visit from Hamilton County on March 29th.
- The state department should be coming in for their unannounced visit for pre-k soon.
- iReady data has been submitted to TDOE.
- 3rd grade students dressed up as black pioneers for our black history museum in the school and other grades took a trip to visit the museum.
- Book character day for Read Across America week took place and was great.
- Teacher Intent to return meetings have taken place. Everyone was asked what works well, doesn't and what would you like for your leaders to know.
- **Teacher's Corner**
 - Benchmarks have been completed for students k-3 and we should receive results by March 27th.
- **Legislative Update**
 - School safety inspections across the state have been taking place and budgets are being cut for schools that have findings that are not fixed by the next inspection.
 - Some changes may be taking place regarding weighted enrollments.
 - Yolanda and some girl attended Day on the Hill in Nashville. Dr. Swafford went to DC for Day on the Hill.
- **Events**
 - Kids in the kitchen, PBL, morning announcements, women in history
 - The science zone will be visiting to do something focused on weather
 - May 15th is kindergarten graduation 10am at Hutton gym.
 - Odyssey
 - Looking to decide on a signature MEHP event A bbq cookoff or "night to remember" event was discussed.
- **Student Needs**
 - Donations to help start a MEHP store to serve two purposes. Yolanda is thinking of offering positive behavior badges and students can use those badges to purchase items. Kids can also purchase needed items in the store as well.
- **Recruitment**
 - 359 students needed for next year.
 - We are currently recruiting for teachers as well. We are giving incentives for faculty/staff who recommends a teacher or teacher assistant.

VI. Committee Reports

Academic Review (Classroom Visits)– Yolanda Williams, Edna Varner, Shewanee Howard-Baptiste, Edna Varner, Sue Anne Wells

Development/Marketing/Tours - Elaine/Yolanda, Sue Anne

- If you know anyone that should tour the school let us know. Tours take place on Tuesdays 11am and Thursdays at 9am.

Facilities – Jeanne Hinchee

- The board was shown drawings of the new warehouse that will be renovated to be an indoor soccer field, use for robotics and offices. This will also be another great space for the community to use.
- We are getting quotes for sound panels in the cafeteria and looking to add more cameras in the building specifically the stairways for safety.

Finance –Tammy Swenson, Jeanne Hinchee

- Revenue is up 8%. Cash is up as of January due to prior year pledge.
- The state is covering the per pupil cost as of right now.
- Working with Ed Tech to develop the budget for next year.

VII. Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 17, 2023@9:30am@ MEHP

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- Alexia announced that there will be a Women’s Suffrage March for Women’s History Month on the 31st.
- Sue Anne and Dr. Swafford are both being honored at the Girls Inc. luncheon.

School Mission – *WHAT We Do:* Montessori Elementary @ Highland Park cultivates ambitious, fearless learners through intellectually-stimulating, interactive experiences that awakens curiosity, nurtures advanced thinking and promote independence.

School Vision – *WHY We Do What We Do:* To establish a trajectory for lifelong learning and self-directed discovery that enables children to reach their full potential as intellectually-engaged learners and ethically-focused leaders.

