



## **DRAFT minutes**

**HCA Board of Directors Meeting  
4:30-6:30 pm**

**May 20, 2020  
Zoom**

Present: Board members: Cynthia Shelmerdine, chair, Nancy Anderson, Ed Harris, David Jean, Sally Mackenzie, Barbara Merson, Peggy Muir, Alan Youdsnukis  
Scott Barksdale, HOS; Andrew Smaha, Finance Director  
Shelley Reed, MCSC and Nikki Farnham, Sate Board

Cynthia called the meeting to order at 4:35.  
Minutes of the April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted.

### **Update from Head of School**

Graduation. Scott described the plans for graduation to be held in the Div 2/3 parking lot on June 5<sup>th</sup>. There are 26 graduates many of whom have spent the last seven years at the school. There will be two student speakers. We nine board members will send graduation cards to three students each on behalf of the Board. Angie will send us the addresses

What will school look like next year? Scott described several scenarios for the opening of the school in the fall. He said our small size makes it easier for HCA to deal with logistics. Maine charter schools will consult with each other and, of course, be guided by the state. We have six fifth graders enrolled, and a total of 151 students so far.

### **For voting approval**

Enrollment policy. After a straw poll that indicated minimal support for the policy providing for BOD members to have precedence for their children in enrollment if a lottery is needed, Peggy made a motion, seconded by Alan that that portion of the policy be removed. After a roll call vote, the policy was accepted by an 8-1 vote.

Hybrid learning--charter amendment. Scott described the model as providing possibilities for students with various needs. Ed applauded the work on this for many reasons including preparation for college for the future and for helping faculty be models for the future of teaching and learning. Peggy asked and was assured that there will be office hours for students. The document the BOD examined provided the framework for the plan; the actual charter amendment that was submitted is different. The BOD voted on the framework. The charter

amendment will be presented at the June meeting. Dave made the motion to accept the framework; Ed seconded. Roll call vote: unanimous acceptance.

Calendar for 2020-2021 (subject to adjustments as needed). On a motion by Cynthia, seconded by Sally, the calendar was accepted unanimously (8-0 since Dave had left the meeting at 5:33).

**Finance Committee.** Andrew presented the quarterly budget update through March 31. He noted that numbers will be quite different for the final quarter because of changes related to moving to on-line learning. He said he has been having frequent meetings with the DOE related to coding changes and funding sources. Peggy asked about the need for more supports for kids at risk in the summer. Andrew said there is funding in the CARES funds for that purpose.

### **Academic Oversight Committee**

Remote learning progress. Ed said he was impressed by how quickly and easily HCA moved into a new mode of learning. He felt the plan was very thorough and thoughtful. At its next meeting, June 8, AO will assess “high value” activities to help in the planning for next year. Peggy suggested the BOD should provide something (e.g., a Gelato Fiasco gift card) to thank the faculty for their efforts during the spring. The BOD will discuss ideas such as this at the June meeting.

### **Executive Committee**

By-laws amendments. Cynthia announced that these changes (increasing the number of BOD members’ terms from 2 to 3 and allowing voting by email under certain circumstances) were unanimously approved by MCSC at its last meeting. Cynthia said the BOD will take up a new slate of officers at its next meeting. Members with thoughts on officers should contact Sally Mackenzie.

Communications exercise. Cynthia posted some handouts from the April webinar as important for the BOD to consider. They involved circumstances at the school and the various people or organizations that need to be notified concerning them. Cynthia also said that the material in the latest webinar (Ten things to be sure to do) might be good for us to discuss at a retreat this summer. Cynthia reminded the BOD of Board Training Webinars: 4-5 pm on Mondays 6/15.

### **Public Comment**

Shelley Reed had some questions about the hybrid model proposed to the MCSC.

1. There is a lot of information provided on who is eligible for the hybrid model, what is the *what* that would be considered for on-line learning?
2. How is the 60/40 split determined?
3. How will field work be ensured?
4. What supports would be available for students so that it is truly effective learning?
5. How will parents be involved so they are effective coaches for their children?
6. How will the success of the implementation of the model be assessed?

Shelley complimented the BOD for its engagement and the school for the weekly newsletter.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Ed, seconded by Nancy, at 6:25 pm.