

Board Members Attending: Cynthia Shelmerdine, David Jean, Sally Mackenzie, Ed Harris, Barbara Merson, and Kathy Wilson.

Also in attendance: Scott Barksdale, HOS; Amy Bundt, Director of Finance and Operations; Mel Christensen-Fletcher, Interim HOS for 22-23; Mae Applegate, Principal for 22-23;

Cynthia called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

Cynthia said the purpose of the meeting was to hear a progress report on the work on the plan for consolidation to be submitted to the Commission when ready.

Mel shared Jeremy Jones's specific requirements of the plan:

- a revised version of the overall plan that you shared including specific, **ambitious goals that could provide new data points that demonstrate indicators of success**
- a **detailed project** map that articulates who, what, how and when transition will take place
- a **week-by-week community engagement** and enrollment plan with benchmarks
- a stronger, more **detailed financial plan** that includes a commitment letter from an accredited lender and longer term projections that speak to the sustainability of the program in the short- and long-term.

Mel said they have added the strategic plan that does have “ambitious goals.” One strand ties to community engagement so that piece connects to the second bullet. She said they have added benchmarks for the goals with a timeline. The planning team have established weekly goals for community engagement that encompasses EL goals and how students are engaged. The community aspect is in a separate section.

Ed asked how HCA is doing re: student-led conferences. Mel replied that they just finished a round of them. Zoom helped to get more parents present. They will connect with students whose parents didn't participate. They have valuable data in this regard.

Ed asked, if they are not meeting targets, how will they address the benchmarks?

Mae said the school already has these goals. They have just not tracked them on a weekly basis. She described the “push-pull” because of the level of detail. What goals should be prioritized, i.e., just the ones that can be described in terms of quantitative data?

Barbara expressed the hope that they have iterative conversations with MCSC staff members. Mel said they would be ready for feedback fairly soon—especially content-wise. Cynthia and Barbara offered to look at it and provide feedback, specifically where would the staff and commissioners likely have questions.

Ed emphasized that we all be optimistic in our conversations with others. So far what has been in the news is less positive. Kathy (and Peggy in an email) noted that some people believe the school is closing. A different message needs to be delivered.

Community engagement is part of the plan which should help get the word out to parents and the community. The parent enrollment committee has been notified about posters and rack cards. Sally will communicate with Jaye Kalil about other tasks generated by the parent group.

Re: the project map. This involves the practical aspects of moving as well as the HCA summer program. These include all aspects of buying and installing the yurts, preparing for parking, moving from Div 2/3, prepping classrooms, and planning for the start of school.

Barbara said a summary is ok but it must be along with a very detailed plan because that's what they are asking for. She also said they will want to know contingency plans for such things as time overruns. Ed said they could make use of the outside. The school has had experience with this at Div2/3.

Cynthia emphasized they are asking for details –who, what, when, how. They need that so they can trust us.

Re: the financial plan. Scott said they have been able to be clearer about expenses for next year. He, Dave, and Amy will meet on April 21st to go over the financials.

The Board discussed the possibility of not having to ask for a loan. So far, 146K has been pledged. Barbara said there should be some kind of spreadsheet indicating amount of pledges or even include the written pledge forms. There is low risk of anyone defaulting on their pledges, because they come from the committed community.

The BOD discussed the pros and cons of establishing a Go Fund Me campaign right off or waiting until May 11. Karli Jo has it ready to go except for revising the script. The fact of it and the request for any amount of money (go fund me donations are fully refundable unless the school is allowed to continue) is good press, an optimistic message for the community.

Ed and Barbara argued for it because it looks positive and many people have a stake in the school because of their giving, no matter the amount.

Barbara made some suggestions:

1. If we take out the loan request, we should have a conversation with the bank to explain where we are and what might be needed later on. [Dave suggested getting a term sheet from Melissa at Androscoggin Bank to have as a fall-back position.]

2. We need to have checks and balances in place. In order to garner trust from the Commission, the plan needs to explain the budget mistake and what we are doing about it to make sure it doesn't occur again. Dave will handle this investigation.

The board then looked at the specifics of the budget regarding staffing.

After this examination, the Board went into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. (Reason: 1.a Discussion of a personnel matter.)

After coming out of executive session the Board voted to grant the Head of School's request concerning a stipend for the prospective Interim Head of School.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30. .