

## HCA September Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Time: 4:30 – 6:30

In Attendance: Cynthia Shelmerdine, Kathy Wilson, Dave Jean, Barbara Merson, Mel Christiansen-Fletcher (HoS), Kata Ritenburg.

Excused: Sally Mackenzie.

No members of the public in attendance.

1: Consent agenda (Minutes of June meeting and of summer votes)

2: Report on HCA from Mel

- COVID is stabilizing, cases declining and most of students and teachers back school
- There is focus on getting clear on students' academic, social, behavior needs, to gear for the year
- Crew leaders are calling students' homes next week to connect directly with the families, to engage families in the public hearing on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and to make sure parents have all the information on NWEA testing and it's importance
- There were 10 families at the Parent partnership meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The parents were engaged and this was a good turnout for the beginning of the year, better than last year.
- The open house is still on for tomorrow night and the upcoming shadow days.
- Enrollment is at 170.
- Yurts are still in progress, 2 are in the process of being framed and one needs to have platform modified. While the platform is modified, the contractor is working on the stairs and ramps. They are still on track to be up and enclosed by the 29<sup>th</sup>, with interior finishing work still needed. Cynthia emphasized having the yurts enclosed by the Meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The school is working with "Count Me In" on student attendance/absenteeism; this will help to formalize data collection and reporting on attendance at our board meetings.
- Currently assessing students, how many are at grade level, below grade level, etc.
- David asked about students' vocational needs and if even kids who live in a different town come to region 10 and Mel confirmed. He noted that HCA does a good job of helping students see other pathways forward in vocations and suggested construction trades. Mel said that she could add that info to be shared with students.

3: Cynthia update on Renewal Process

- The charter renewal application was submitted.
- The request to lower enrollment was submitted.
- There are changes on the MCSC that may impact our renewal. The Governor just appointed 3 new Commissioners.
- Gina clarified that if all 7 of the commissioner seats are full, that we'll need 5 votes in our favor for our Charter to be approved.
- Cynthia has gotten word that the MCSC Academic Performance Committee has 3 primary questions about what we presented in our application.
  - Absenteeism – 7 kids chronically absent performed well – What about the rest of the students?

- 70% students taking state test – What are you doing and what have you done to address that number? Expectation is 95%
- There are specific services offered at district schools to meet students' needs; how specifically did district schools not meet these students' needs? Cynthia suggest adding how did that school specifically fail that student per parents.
- Financial issue – How does having less students than 170 affect the budget? Concern expressed with cutting any money for staff professional development.

#### Strategy for Public Hearing on the 29th

- Discussion on what to focus on and talking points for meeting and lining up some board members to speak on the 29<sup>th</sup>
- Lining up parents and families to speak
- Lining up community members to speak on our behalf – Cynthia asked board members to reach out and find others to speak. Cynthia is reaching out to local politicians and asking for anyone who can make calls

#### MCSC voting on our Charter Renewal Oct 11th

- Meeting is from 1-4pm in Augusta in the Cross Building
- All HCA Board members should be there in person or on Zoom

4: The HCA Board needs to provide a physical public venue for meetings, not just zoom link.

#### 5: Board Training Modules

- Board members need to complete required training modules, but can wait to do them until after the Oct 11<sup>th</sup> vote

6: Developing standard format for reporting on the measures we are working on like absenteeism

7: Sally has a format for structured discussions

8: Will have another working session and Cynthia asked for feedback from the board on the template she shared on evaluating the Head of School.

9: The Board agreed to move the October meeting from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>, the day after the MCSC votes on the charter renewal.

Meeting adjourned