

Moab Charter School Board Meeting Minutes December 19th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Chair Tanner Rubin, Vice Chair Royce Van Tassell, Director Carrie Ann Smith, Secretary Eric Pratt (virtually), Red Apple Jeff Biesinger (virtually), David Mortensen (virtual)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Royce made a motion to approve the minutes from November's board meeting, David seconded. Director Carrie Ann interjected that the minutes were not in the drive folder they were expected to be in, and asked secretary Pratt if he knew where they could be found. Secretary Pratt stated his computer was having memory issues and he was unable to access the drive to confirm where they were located. It was determined that the approval would be suspended pending locating of the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Carrie Ann Smith spoke on and reported the following:

ENROLLMENT: is at 61.

STAFFING: First week of January we lose Coach Jesse, who will be training her replacement during that week.

STUDENT COUNCIL: Got student council started this year. They are helping to get set up for tonight's art fair. They will help lead several other events this year, including January's area spelling B.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM PLAN: We are continuing to increase the number of students participating in that from our special education population.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS: Parent council will be helping with art week, the last week in December, and our MCS board meeting falls during that week, so she hopes our board may be able to attend.

SCHOOL NEEDS ASSESSMENT: The assessment and the request for alternatives has been submitted at both the LEA and school level.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Jeff Biesinger went over the financials. Jeff had no recommendations. Said we've been waiting for a new policy concerning time and efforts. He'll bring that to us at the January meeting. The biggest changes were state revenue, we did get our corrected allotment reflecting our October 1st count. We did see a pretty big reduction in funding as expected, since we went down from 74 to 69 students by that date. We are down about \$70k in funding, but there shouldn't be any more changes in funding for the rest of the year. We did get IEDA numbers for the rest of the year as far as Federal revenue.

We still have an extra teacher and several aides' salaries in our budget. Jeff adjusts for this each month as the positions go unfilled to reflect accurately in our budget. Cash continues to be strong.

Chair Tanner asked for a motion to approve the financials as they've been presented. Royce made a motion. Pratt seconded. A vote was had and the motion carried.

VOTE FOR APPROVAL TO PLAN A BUDGET FOR 25'-26' SCHOOL YEAR

Royce made a motion to vote to approve to plan a budget for the 25'-25' school year. Pratt seconded the motion. A vote was had and the motion carried.

We then discussed. Chair Rubin suggested we consider basing the budget on an enrollment of about 70 students based on recent years. Royce opined that he isn't convinced that the school can be sustained with an enrollment at 70 over the long term and that we soon need to get to an enrollment of 85 students in order to maintain stability.

David clarified what the meaning of this discussion was about, specifically if Rubin was looking to approve a budget now. Rubin clarified that what he is looking for is some sort of assurance that there is a 25'-26' school year at all, so that staff can have that reassurance as they make decisions about committing to return next year.

David asked that Jeff put together a rough budget for next school year based on an enrollment of around 70 students in order to gauge what that will look like before making any assurances to staff about what to expect for the '25-'26 school year. Royce indicated that before March it would be impractical to try and get a budget estimate together that has any reasonable chance of reflecting any accurate numbers, and for now we should remain focused on driving enrollment.

Jeff mentioned that if we maintained our enrollment as is, we would be able sustain ourselves for several years to come.

The board continued to discuss what enrollment efforts have been tried, and ideas on what may still be tried, and this discussion went on at length.

Royce made a motion that the board authorize Director Carrie Ann to use \$50k in one time spending to drive enrollment between now and August, contingent on her coming back at next month's board meeting with a plan on how to spend the money for the board to evaluate.

Rubin asked for a second, David seconded the motion to open it up for discussion. Pratt stated he was wanting to find out from Carrie Ann if the proposal was something she felt was feasible for her to do if it were passed. David expressed his desire to first have a plan in place concerning what the money would be spent on before committing to the amount of money. There was additional discussion before Rubin put it to a vote. Royce voted in the affirmative, the others voted nay, and the motion did not pass.

Pratt proposed that we increase teacher pay to that of \$3 more than the district pay scale in order to attract talented and highly sought after educators, which in turn may drive enrollment. There was some discussion on this, and Jeff updated Pratt on some of the concerns with such a proposal. Eventually Pratt reconsidered and rescinded the motion.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Royce made a motion that we adopt the police that he and David drafted with a \$250 donation there. Pratt seconded the motion. Rubin asked for a vote and the vote carried and the motion passed.

MCS' FMLA policy was then discussed and it was determined that the policy in place is already sufficient

SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Carrie Ann reported that the school needs assessment has been submitted and we are waiting on the outcome before moving forward with recommendations.

CLOSED SESSION

Not needed

ACTION NECESSARY FROM CLOSED SESSION

Not applicable

ADJOURN

Royce moved that we adjourn. Vote carried.