

The Autism Model School
Board Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2016
Location: ProMedica Health and Wellness Center
Community Education Room 1
5700 Monroe Street
Sylvania, OH 43560
5:30 PM

Attending: Isaac Demarest (late), Cynthia Frye, Toni Gerber, Mark Greenblatt, Lisa Marsalek, James Rothschild, Bruce Weinberg

Excused: Ed Cancio, Raj Parikh

Also Attending: Mary Walters, Director; Catherine Moore, Administrator 2 /Recorder of the Minutes; Kristi Hayward, Sponsor Representative - ESC Lake Erie West; Joel Vidovic, Behavioral Management Director; Mary Cornell, Assistant Behavioral Management Director

Meeting began at 5:31 PM

I. Public Comments

- Nothing presented

II. Minutes

- From the September 26, 2016 board meeting. Discussion and approval.

Motion to approve of the September 26, 2016 minutes, as written:

1. Toni Gerber
2. Cynthia Frye

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Frye, Gerber, Marsalek, Rothschild, Weinberg

III. Standing Reports

a. Financial Report

- i. September, 2016 Financials—budget & variance reports.

- The Board reviewed and discussed the September, 2016 budget & variance report.

Motion to approve the September, 2016 Financials:

1. Lisa Marsalek

2. Bruce Weinberg

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Frye, Gerber, Marsalek, Rothschild, Weinberg

ii. October deposit

- Walters informed the board of the connection between the EMIS data input, JV audits, and the variations in the monthly deposits, as explained to her by the treasurer.

iii. FY 17 budget

- The required budget template was changed by the Ohio Department of Education after the Autism Model School Board's approval of the FY 17 budget in September, 2016. Walters presented the new budget template for approval.
- Frye recommended including health care costs in the assumptions of the budget.

Move to approve the FY 17 budget, with the inclusion of health care costs as an assumption of the budget:

1. Lisa Marsalek

2. Cynthia Frye

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Demarest, Frye, Gerber, Marsalek, Rothschild, Weinberg

iv. St. Clement updating their sign on Tremainsville Road

- The board discussed the necessity of including school events on the building's new digital sign. It was decided that only the school's name and logo need to be included on the sign since few if any parents drive by on a regular basis.

b. Sponsor Representative's Report

- Hayward reported that her October site visit went well and found the school to be in compliance.

- Hayward discovered that there is no database of community school treasurers, however, Tom Babb, an advocate for community schools, said that he could provide treasurer recommendations.
- Weinberg asked Hayward why ESCLEW failed their evaluation. Hayward explained that there are two ways that the sponsor can be labelled “ineffective,” and ESCLEW received a 2.9 (a 3.0 was required for the “effective” rating). She also said that if any school in a sponsor’s portfolio receives a D or an F in academics, the sponsor is rated “ineffective.”
- Walters, Hayward, and the board members discussed the Safe Harbor legislation that currently protects schools but not sponsors.
- Hayward told the board members that there is a meeting on November 1, 2016 with Kurt and April to discuss the state’s competing disqualifiers for “effective” ratings.

c. Policies and Procedures

i. Safety Plan

- The board discussed the value of the operations plan. Walters told the board there will be safety plan training for the school staff on Wednesday, November 23, 2016.

Move to approve the safety operations plan:

1. Isaac Demarest

2. Bruce Weinberg

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Demarest, Frye, Gerber, Marsalek, Rothschild, Weinberg

d. Director’s Report

- The Board reviewed and discussed the September New Hires and Resignations.

Motion to approve the September, 2016 hires and resignations:

1. Isaac Demarest

2. Toni Gerber

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Demarest, Frye, Gerber, Marsalek, Rothschild, Weinberg

- St. Clement Church new sign (discussed above in the financial report)
- Walters and the board discussed the ODE FY 16 report card.
 - Walters told the board how the school worked with the SST1 who recommended to ODE's Office for Exceptional Children (OEC) that AMS be removed from the state's "improvement" program.
 - Frye wanted to negate the Fs by thanking Vidovic and Cornell for their efforts; "you mean the world to these kids."
 - Walters also acknowledged the efforts of Vidovic and Cornell by informing the board that both they, and some teachers, have been literally beaten up with the addition of new students. Transitions can sometimes be difficult for everyone.
- Walters then segued to touch upon the scheduling restrictions recently enacted for a severely affected student who has become unsafe with students and staff. Vidovic said that the student has made great progress but, due to his physical growth, has become unmanageable in his current school environment.
 - The student, the classroom teacher, and one paraprofessional will work together for one hour outside of normal school hours until such time as the student is able to resume his education during the school's normal operating hours. Vidovic assured the board that a member of the clinical management team would also be on site.

Motion to approve the amended hours for the contingency of the student until the circumstances change and to approve additional hourly pay for the teacher at the teacher's hourly rate based on the teacher's current contract:

1. Isaac Demarest
2. Lisa Marsalek

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Demarest, Frye, Gerber, Marsalek, Rothschild, Weinberg

- Annual Report draft
 - Gerber told Walters that student names cannot be published; the pictures are great but we should remove the names per Ohio Revised Code regulations.

Motion to approve the Annual Report, pending the removal of student names:

1. Lisa Marsalek
2. Bruce Weinberg

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Demarest, Frye, Gerber, Marsalek, Rothschild, Weinberg

e. Development Director's Report

Nothing reported due to a leave by the Development Director.

IV. Old Business

a. 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant update

- The after school program appears to be going well. The board is meeting regularly and they are currently working on ways to increase enrollment. Enrollment is now up to three (3) children.
- The incorporation of transportation services is being considered. Walters said that the money is there. Vidovic said he believes transportation is a barrier for many of the school's families.

V. New Business

- Nothing presented.

Motion to adjourn at 6:29 PM:

1. Isaac Demarest
- 2.

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Demarest, Frye, Gerber, Marsalek, Rothschild, Weinberg

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 29, 2016, at 5:30 pm in the ProMedica Health and Wellness Center, Community Education Room 1, 5700 Monroe Street, Sylvania, Ohio, 43560.