

The Autism Model School
Board Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2019
Location: Autism Model School
Jaeger Hall
3020 Tremainsville Road
Toledo, OH 43613
5:30 PM

Attending: Ed Cancio, Isaac Demarest (late arrival), Mark Greenblatt, Lisa Marsalek, Raj Parikh, James Rothschild, Bruce Weinberg

Excused: Toni Gerber

Also Attending: Mary Walters, Director; Catherine Moore, Administrator 2 /Recorder of the Minutes; Joel Vidovic, Behavior Management Director; Mary Cornell, Assistant Behavior Management Director; Luke Reed, Developmental Director; Jessica Bair, Sponsor Representative - ESC Lake Erie West; Linell Weinberg – Potential New Board Member

Meeting began at 5:30 PM

I. Welcome and Public Comments

- i. Marsalek informed her fellow board members that the live Sunshine Laws Training she attended April 6th was a far better experience than the internet based course. In light of the training, she proposed the board review the policy on public comments at a future meeting.

II. Minutes

- From the March, 2019 board meeting. Discussion and approval.

Motion to approve the March 19, 2019 minutes as written:

1. Mark Greenblatt

2. Ed Cancio

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Cancio, Greenblatt, Marsalek, Rothschild, Parikh

III. Standing Reports

a. Financial Report

i. March, 2019 Financials—budget & variance reports.

- The Board reviewed and discussed the March, 2019 budget & variance report.
- Rothschild said there was nothing of concern in the financials and that the school looks as though it may be \$20-30K over budget.
- Walters provided the board with an update regarding the use of contracts to expand the school. As an alternative to contracts, Walters is looking to the administrative code to redefine the limit of students per instructor. Cancio asked if the school could waive the limit; Walters answered that the school must have a plan to reduce the overage within the year. Walters and Vidovic feel that increasing the number of students per instructor from six to seven is something that could be done in our environment, especially if we hire an additional instructional paraprofessional per room with a 7th student with ASD.

Motion to approve the March, 2019 Financials:

1. Mark Greenblatt

2. Raj Parikh

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Cancio, Greenblatt, Marsalek, Rothschild, Parikh

ii. Health Insurance

- Rothschild asked Greenblatt for his expertise. We're a small group with some unusual circumstances. Rothschild asked if we could join a larger group; pooling with other schools or non-profits may reduce overall costs. Walters and Bair spoke briefly about Ohio Schools Council, which presented a health insurance pool at the recent ESC meeting attended by Jeana Kirkendall on April 10, 2019.
- Rothschild recommends accepting the premium increase for the current plan in 2019-2020, and making reducing costs for 2020-2021 the priority. He suggested a contact to help Walters look into reducing next year's costs.

- Walters asked the board to consider paying at least half of the premium increase, as has been done in the past. Greenblatt and Demarest asserted that if the board absorbs more than half of the total cost for the third of employees who use the school's health insurance plan, we may not be able to offer raises in the coming school year.

Motion to approve the Paramount plan under the current terms with the fifteen percent (15%) increase and regular cost sharing of fifty percent (50%), taking under advisement whether or not the board will absorb more of the cost of the increase and addressing that possibility at the next board meeting:

1. James Rothschild

2. Lisa Marsalek

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Cancio, Demarest, Greenblatt, Marsalek, Rothschild, Parikh

- The board agreed that the next step in managing rising healthcare costs is to explore opportunities to pool with other groups for better rates.
- Walters and representatives from USI will present the plan to staff next week, the week of May 1st.

b. Sponsor Representative Report

- i. Bair informed the board that the ESC is still waiting on feedback regarding the School Improvement Grant, as is everyone else who applied.
- ii. There were no red flags to report in the ESC's financial review.
- iii. Bair conducted the monthly site visit on April 4th, during which she met with Walters to discuss 11.6 goals.

c. Policies and Procedures

- i. Nothing to present

d. Director's Report

- i. The Board reviewed and discussed the March, 2019 New Hires and Resignations.

Motion to approve the March, 2019 hires and resignations:**1. Isaac Demarest****2. Lisa Marsalek****Vote – Yes – Cancio, Demarest, Marsalek, Rothschild, Parikh****Vote – No – Greenblatt**

- ii. Contracted Student Update
 - Update can be found in § a_i, *Financial Report*, above.
- iii. University of Michigan School of Social Work Virtual Reality Job Interview Training for Transition Aged Youth with Autism. – see Amy Trautwein’s report in the following pages.
 - Walters highlighted a few aspects of the program and told the board that the school may be part of the pilot program in the fall.
- e. Transportation Director’s Report
 - i. Nothing significant to report.
- f. Development Director’s Report
 - i. Upcoming Grant Proposals
 - 21st Century Community Learning Centers
 - Submitting a proposal on Friday. The Super Shades Foundation will be our community partner.
 - School Quality Improvement Grant
 - Still waiting as Bair pointed out. Walters pointed out that it is tied to federal funding and we had no choice but to do it.
 - ii. Special Events
 - Prom, Sweet Prom
 - Reed reported that Prom, Sweet Prom was another success, thanks, in part, to the great volunteers. The Prom Committee is already planning the 10th annual AMS prom.

- Autism Awareness Breakfast
 - Reed invited the board members to attend the Autism Awareness Breakfast on Friday, May 3rd. There will be vendors at the event. While there will be no official speaker this year, Ron Adler of Ohio Coalition for Quality Education will be on hand. We are also expecting Ohio Senator Teresa Fedor and Ohio Representative Paula Hicks-Hudson.

IV. Old Business

- Paid time off policy – to be addressed at a future board meeting.
- Greenblatt asked if there was any word back from the team at ProMedica Innovations regarding the e-commerce program. Walters stated that the school had a final meeting with them in the fall of 2018 and nothing came of it.

V. New Business

a. Election of Officers

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| i. | Secretary: | James Rothschild | 7 votes |
| ii. | Treasurer: | Isaac Demarest | 7 votes |
| iii. | Vice-President: | Lisa Marsalek | 7 votes |
| iv. | President: | Bruce Weinberg | 7 votes |

- b. Weinberg asked for updates regarding the search for potential board members. The doctor he mentioned at the last meeting is not interested in a board position.

- i. Demarest has found an interested candidate and will invite her to the next board meeting. She is the head nurse of Mercy, specializing in interventional radiology; she has an adult son with autism.
- ii. Rothschild has not yet found a candidate.
- iii. Walters has not contacted anyone specifically. She would like to gauge interest from the parents before making a

recommendation. Rothschild cautioned against casting the net too wide.

- c. Walters introduced board candidate Linell Weinberg. As the former director of the Autism Society of Northwest Ohio, now retired, most of the board members were familiar with her credentials. There were no questions from the board.
 - i. Bair reviewed the administrative requirements for board membership, including the FBI and BCI background checks that must be completed prior to election to the board.
 - ii. Moore told the board that the fee to conduct a background check has increased, and relayed Jeana Kirkendall's request that the board update their policy on background check fee reimbursement to reflect the change.

Motion to increase the amount paid by the Autism Model School to cover the full cost of the FBI and BCI background checks if it comes back acceptable for hire, whatever that cost may be:

1. James Rothschild

2. Mark Greenblatt

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Cancio, Demarest, Greenblatt, Marsalek, Rothschild, Parikh

Motion to adjourn at 6:13 PM:

1. Demarest

2.

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Cancio, Demarest, Greenblatt, Marsalek, Rothschild, Parikh

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2019 pm at the Autism Model School, 3020 Tremainsville Road, Toledo, Ohio 43613.