

The Autism Model School
Board Meeting Minutes
August 25th, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
5:30 PM

Attending: Toni Gerber, Mark Greenblatt, Bruce Weinberg, Linell Weinberg, Isaac Demarest, James Rothschild

Excused: Lisa Marsalek, Raj Parikh, Ed Cancio

Also Attending: Mary Walters, Director; Marcus Flynn, Administrator 2 /Recorder of the Minutes; Joel Vidovic, Behavior Management Director; Mary Cornell, Assistant Behavior Management Director; Luke Reed, Developmental Director; Amy Trautwein, Job Training Coordinator; Jessica Bair, Sponsor Representative - ESC Lake Erie West; Dave Massa, Fiscal Agent – Massa Financial Solutions, LLC, and members of the public.

Meeting began at 5:30 PM

I. Agenda

- Discussion and motion to move up the Directors Report after Public comments

Motion to approve the agenda with a change to the order of agenda by moving Directors report after the Public Comments for the August 25th, 2020 agenda:

1. L. Weinberg

2. Gerber

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Gerber, Greenblatt, L. Weinberg, Demarest, Rothschild

II. Welcome and Public Comments

- Mr. and Mrs. Wegner expressed concern for the education of their children according to each child's IEP. They addressed concerns that since Autism Model School went on extended Covid-19 break in March, Zoom meetings and education have not kept up with IEP standards. They are worried and concerned that their children are not getting the same

opportunity to learn as the typical schools around us are providing.

- Ms. Rothe expressed concern that Autism Model School MUST reopen because of the way we teach ABA and DI in the classrooms. Ms. Rothe also stated that Autism Model School has the space to reallocate students to different rooms and that students need to be taught five days a week. Ms. Rothe ended her time with stating that, “If anybody can teach our kids how to wear masks and social distance, it IS Autism Model School.”

III. Minutes

- From the July, 2020 board meeting. Discussion and approval.

Motion to approve the July 21st, 2020 minutes as written:

1. Greenblatt

2. Gerber

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Gerber, Greenblatt, L. Weinberg, Demarest, Rothschild

IV. Director’s Report

i. Staff Changes for July, 2020

- No Staff Changes

Motion to approve the July, 2020 Staff Changes:

1. Greenblatt

2. Gerber

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Gerber, Greenblatt, L. Weinberg, Demarest, Rothschild

- Walters gave a high level overview of Autism Model School’s 80-page Re-Start Plan to the Lucas County Health Department.
- B. Weinberg followed up with asking Walters, how the plan was developed. Walters outlined the sources of information and data considered in the development of the plan including but not limited to: parent survey data collected in late May and June of 2020, comparisons of the plans in place for traditional

school districts in Lucas County as well as Community Schools and Autism Scholarship Programs in Lucas County, and consideration of the poll taken among parents indicating their preference for in-person education versus remote education for their child. Additionally, consideration of the Covid 19 alert level in the state of Ohio as well as in Lucas County are important in the development of the plan along with the recommendation from the Lucas County Department of Health for all schools to start remotely in the fall with a reevaluation on October 1st, 2020.

- Rothschild wanted to make sure the public knows “We hear you.” “Parents are not the only ones that want the students back. Teachers, students, the board, and even administration all want the students and staff to get back to a normal schedule and back into the swing of things.”
- B. Weinberg stated that “a majority of the board has a child that falls somewhere on the spectrum; they understand what it is like right now in such a troubling time.”
- Walters discussed the Restart Plan and the Remote Learning Plan. The Restart Plan was for the Lucas County Health Department to approve; it outlined how we were going to restart whether it was in-person or fully remote. The Remote Learning Plan was mandated for all public schools to create. It details how Autism Model School will deliver remote learning to students, and it is a part of the Re-Start Plan. Within the Remote Learning Plan, an Individual Remote Learning Plan is addressed and will be planned for each student individually.
- Vidovic stated the complexity of some students coming and going to school will be difficult because a small, but good percentage of our students have an underlying health issue. Choices to keep school shut down are for the safety of ALL our students. We fully believe that hygiene practices and social distancing practices will not be accepted by all students.
- Greenblatt stated that he is struggling with a local school district’s decision to start remotely as it affects his own child’s

ability to receive an effective education since his child with autism struggles with issues of focus, concentration, and persistence in working through academic assignments. The need for in-person instruction is paramount to his child's success. He said he understands the rationale for Autism Model School's decision to start fall classes remotely, but that we must find a better way.

- Greenblatt exited the board meeting at this time: 6:00 pm
- Walters mentioned that there is a possibility AMS could potentially move up the staff training that is necessary for Re-Start of the school depending on the trend in infections of Covid 19 within the state and county, and considering the recommendation of the Department of Health. If that becomes possible, and if the Lucas County Department of Health is no longer recommending schools operate fully remotely, then students may be able to begin in-school instruction in early October. All of this is dependent on several outside factors.
- Gerber said that "As a retired principal my number one priority was to keep kids safe and healthy...once you have that, then students can begin to learn."
- Rothschild said, "I would not be able to sleep at night if school opened and even one student or staff member became seriously ill or died."

V.

a. Financial Report

- i. July, 2020 Financials—budget & variance reports.
 - The Board along with Dave Massa reviewed and discussed the July, 2020 budget & variance report.

Motion to approve the July, 2020 Financials:

1. Demarest

2. Gerber

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Gerber, L. Weinberg, Demarest, Rothschild

- b. Sponsor Representative Report
 - September site visit will be held virtually.
 - The state Fire Marshall updated the guidelines and a fire drill must happen within ten days of returning to school.
 - The sponsor review of financials raised no red flags.
- c. Policies and Procedures
 - i. Update of Teacher Evaluation Policy to OTES 2.0 Framework
 - Teacher evaluation policy (OTES 2.0) must be adopted prior to September 1st but does not need to go into effect until FY 22

Motion to approve update of Teacher Evaluation Policy to OTES 2.0 Framework:

1. Rothschild

2. Gerber

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Gerber, L. Weinberg, Demarest, Rothschild

- ii. School Year for adopting OTES 2.0 Framework (FY21 or FY 22)

Motion to fully implement OTES for all Teachers and Paras for FY 22

1. Rothschild

2. Gerber

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Gerber, L. Weinberg, Demarest, Rothschild

- iii. Designation of EMIS Representative for FY 2021: Jeana Kirkendall, Administrator 1.

Motion to approve continuation of EMIS Representative for FY 2021: Jeana Kirkendall, Administrator 1:

1. Gerber

2. L. Weinberg

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Gerber, L. Weinberg, Demarest, Rothschild

d. School Director Search Committee Activities

- The committee of B. Weinberg, Vidovic, Marsalek, Cornell, Gerber, and Walters as a consultant to the committee all met and discussed and outlined a job description for the new Director of Autism Model
- There will need more committee meetings to discuss a variety of issues around the development of documents needed for advertising, where to advertise, etc.
- There will also need to be future discussion and approval of a recruiting budget including relocation funds, funds to pay two directors, and any public advertisements to make about the open position.

e. Student Address Verification

- Phone bill and electric bill

Motion to approve Student Address Verification as presented:

1. L. Weinberg

2. Rothschild

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Gerber, L. Weinberg, Demarest, Rothschild

VI. Development Director's Report

- Luke reviewed all documents provided to the board; the board was very appreciative.
- A new metric for grant tracking was developed.

VII. Old Business

- Nothing presented

VIII. New Business

- The September, 2020 board meeting will be held again via Zoom.

Motion to approve that the September 29th, 2020 board meeting will be held via Zoom:

1. L. Weinberg

2. Demarest

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Gerber, L. Weinberg, Demarest, Rothschild

IX. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm

1. Demarest

Vote – Yes – Unanimous: Gerber, L. Weinberg, Demarest, Rothschild.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 29th, 2020 at 5:30 Via Zoom.