

**The Autism Model School  
Board Meeting Minutes  
April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Meeting Start:** 5:30 PM

**Attending:** Bruce Weinberg, Linell Weinberg, Lisa Marsalek, Kim Veizer, Toni Gerber, Mark Greenblatt, Kathleen Cott-Johnson, Jim Rothschild, Isaac Demarest, Raj Parikh (544p)

**Excused:**

**Also Attending:** Joel Vidovic, Executive Director; Marcus Flynn – Recorder of Minutes; Brittany Beck, Sponsor Representative - ESC Lake Erie West

**Meeting began at 5:30 PM**

**I. Agenda**

- a. Discussion and approval.
  - i. **Motion to approve the April agenda as written with changes to the order of New Business:**
    - 1. **Weinberg, L.**
    - 2. **Gerber**
      - a. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber, Rothschild, Demarest**

**II. Welcome and Public Comments**

- a. None to present

**III. Minutes**

- a. Discussion and approval of minutes from the March 2025 board meeting.
  - i. **Motion to approve the March 2025 Minutes as written:**
    - 1. **L. Weinberg**
    - 2. **Demarest**
      - a. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber, Rothschild, Demarest**

**IV. Standing Reports**

- a. Financial Report
  - i. The Board reviewed and discussed the March 2025 financial report.
    - 1. **Motion to approve March 2025 Financial reports:**
      - a. **Cott-Johnson**
      - b. **Gerber**
        - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber, Rothschild, Demarest**

- b. Sponsor Representative Report
  - i. Brittany Beck presented the Sponsor Representative Report for April 2025
  - ii. There were no questions.
  - iii. The monthly site visit was April 14th, 2025
- c. Policies and Procedures
  - i. Nothing to Present

**V. Director's Report**

- a. Staffing Update for March 2025
  - i. Reviewed and Discussed
    - 1. **Motion to approve the March 2025 Staff Changes:**
      - a. **Demarest**
      - b. **Weinberg, L.**
        - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber, Rothschild, Demarest**
- b. Current Funding
  - i. Annual State funding projections dropped significantly in the April payment report. This is due to a PowerSchool data error that resulted in the Career-Tech Program showing zero FTE- and subsequently zero funding. This error has been corrected and the funding should be fully restored in next month's report.
  - ii. This month's payment report reflected steady enrollment of 94.72 students.
  - iii. This month's State payment report reflects a small increase in Cat 6 FTE- resulting from the correction of an IEP in EMIS reporting. Software Update
- c. Special Education Complaint
  - i. We were made aware that a complaint was filed by a parent with the Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) regarding a student attending Autism Model School and the use of restraint/seclusion. OEC received the complaint and determined that the complaint was "insufficient", fell outside of their jurisdiction, and therefore did not warrant an investigation.
  - ii. OEC indicated that within the restraint/seclusion complaint there were also "special education allegations" or statements from the parent that indicated that AMS is allegedly violating the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or the Operating Standards for the Education of Students with Disabilities. They will be conducting an investigation on these items.
  - iii. We have not yet received the Letter of Allegations from OEC.
  - iv. We are well prepared to respond to the allegations once we receive them.
- d. Teacher Contracts for FY26
  - i. Contracts were distributed to AMS teachers for FY26 on Friday, March 21st, 2025 with a deadline for return of Friday, April 4th, 2025.
    - 1. I am happy to report that 100% of our current teachers signed their contracts with an intent to return for the 2025-2026 school year.
- e. Threshold Cost Application

- i. Threshold cost application was approved by our Area Coordinator on 3/20/25 for a total claim of \$1,260,905.10. If the reimbursement rate is similar to last year (41.5%) we can expect a reimbursement of approximately \$523,275.00 sometime in June of this year.
- f. Software Update
  - i. Manuscript for study evaluating IDAPT with BGSU was submitted for consideration for publication in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders. If published, this will be the third peer-reviewed publication in the last 4 years with authors from Autism Model School.
- g. Playground Upgrade
  - i. Installation of a 50-foot zip track was completed on April 1st. Students and community members have really enjoyed the new addition.

#### **Raj Parikh arrival (5:44p)**

- h. Security Updates
  - i. Camera and intercom system installed at the front entrance allowing us to view and communicate with individuals prior to them gaining access to the school building.
  - ii. Kiosk window at the front office has now been sealed off- creating a significantly more secure school environment and improving our lock-down capabilities.
- i. GRANT UPDATES - Awarded
  - i. Received a \$250 donation from Costco to support prom.
- j. GRANTS- DENIED
  - i. Katherine R. Smith Fund (GTCF)
    - 1. Submitted \$5000 request to support Summer Learning Program.
  - ii. Bill Rowles Youth Fund (GTCF)
    - 1. Submitted \$2000 request to support Summer Learning Program.
- k. GRANTS- SUBMITTED
  - i. Toledo Rotary Foundation
    - 1. Submitted a \$10,000 request targeting upgrades to our PAES Lab (Practical Assessment and Exploration System) Program.
      - a. We made it to the 2nd round in the award process and held a site visit with a representative from the Rotary on Friday, March 7th.
  - ii. John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation
    - 1. Submitted \$30,000 request for funding for Summer Learning Program.
  - iii. Dollar General Literacy Grant
    - 1. Submitted \$5000 request for Summer Learning Program.
  - iv. Lott-Conlon Foundation
    - 1. Submitted a \$15,000 grant focused on supporting expenses to replace the fencing on the school's playground.

#### **VI. Development Director's Report**

- a. Development Director Report was reviewed and discussed.

#### **VII. Transportation Directors Report**

- a. Transportation Director Report was reviewed and discussed.

#### **VIII. Old Business**

- a. Sunshine Law Training
  - i. Reviewed and Discussed
  - ii. 10 of 10 Board Members are now compliant for current year

**IX. New Business**

- a. One Plan Program
  - i. Reviewed and Discussed
- b. Board Nominations
  - i. Board of Directors Officer Election Nominations
    - 1. President Nominations
      - a. Linell Weinberg
    - 2. Vice President Nominations
      - a. Kim Veizer
    - 3. Treasurer Nominations
      - a. Isaac Demarest
    - 4. Secretary Nominations
      - a. Jim Rothschild

**Isaac Demarest left (6:01p)**

- c. Staff Compensation
  - i. Reviewed and discussed
    - 1. **Motion to approve the employee compensation for the administration and CMT staff:**
      - a. **Gerber**
      - b. **Rothschild**
        - i. **Vote – Yes – Unanimous: L. Weinberg, Marsalek, Veizer, Greenblatt, Cott-Johnson, Gerber, Rothschild, Parikh**

**Motion to adjourn at 6:04 PM**

- 1. **Cott-Johnson**

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:30pm. The meeting will be held at the office of Mark Greenblatt, located at 7150 W. Central Avenue, Ste. 100 Toledo, Ohio 43617