

MFA Minutes
3/25/08
7667 10th Street North
Oakdale, MN 55128

1. 6:00pm - Welcome/Introduction
2. 6:37pm - Call to order regular board meeting
3. Reading of Vision/Mission
4. Roll Call – C. Emery, D. Emery, K. Wood, L. Tangen-Foster, J. Tangen-Foster, D. Bend
5. Misc. Attendees – T. LaFerrier, D. Thomas, Dee Thomas, Jane Husnik, Kendra Hunding, Debbie Johnson, Ron Cockriel
6. Approval of Meeting Agenda - Dick motions to move #19 (Budget Review) and #20 (Governance/Administration) to front of agenda, Don seconds, no discussion, motion passes
7. Review/Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from 3/11/08 – Don moves to approve minutes, Dick seconds, no discussion, motion passes
8. Treasurer's Report - Don
Balance \$47,282.82
9. Budget Review-Traci LaFerrier
Traci addressed questions raised during 2/11/08 BOD meeting
 - Medical and dental-high?
 - MFA will determine whether they will contribute to medical coverage
 - Costs could vary
 - Preliminary estimates were based on high-average
 - Disability is expensive-is it something that should be added later? Should teachers be given the option to buy?
 - Disability could be added later
 - Pros/cons of pulling from federal start up money?
 - Federal start up money could be used for start up one-time professional development
 - Time records must be kept
 - Curriculum development money (\$50,000)-what is included in that title?
 - Money comes from federal grant
 - Amounts are place holders based on original application that was written for the school
 - MFA could amend application
 - Can you purchase a van with federal money?

- A van is difficult to insure and can only hold 7 passengers
- We would need to check on whether or not we could use the federal money to purchase a bus

Suggestions:

- We need to update budget based on decisions that have been finalized
- Determine what MFA will be spending from federal grant and what will roll over for next year

10. Governance/Administration – Doug/Dee Thomas

Dee Thomas shared Minnesota New Country School model

- All staff members serve on 2 teams; recommendations are made to the staff by teams, all staff have a vote; staff members do evaluations of one another; staff members act as business owners vs. employees

Suggestions for MFA

- Is potential staff interested in being part of a site-based team?
- Is potential staff interested in leadership roles?

EdVisions' cost - 2% of the total cost (payroll, benefits, HR)

EdVisions can provide discount on NWEA

Dick motions to:

1. make reference checks on coop members
2. place discussion of EdVisions model on April 6th meeting agenda

Don seconds, no discussion, motion passes

11. Kim motions to move #13 (Financial Systems) to next order of business, Don seconds, no discussion, motion passes

12. Financial Systems – Traci LaFerrier

Shared finance system comparisons

Recommends Smart-better support and cheaper

Don motions to purchase Smart finance system on a hosted solution, Dick seconds

Discussion-Traci could be utilized to complete UFARS coding, motion passes

13. Board Membership and Selection Process

Potential BOD member introduction

- Ron Cockriel - served on public school boards, Math Science Academy Board Chair (first year)
- Jane Husnik – interest in BOD and MFA, licensed teacher, fundraising, parent of potential K student
- Kendra Hunding– interested in teaching position, teaches at Science Museum of MN

- Debbie Johnson – MSA parent volunteer, runs gardening and landscaping program, peace program, ran business office, interested in Business Manager position and volunteer opportunities at MFA

14.By-Laws Revisions

Dick shared by-laws revisions

Don moves to approve updated by-laws, Claire seconds, Discussion – Dick is not serving as BOD attorney motion passes

15.Upcoming /Previous Trainings and Workshops (MACS/MDE)

Kim created calendar for upcoming April trainings

- Rainbow Families Conference – Laurel and Kim will attend
- MACS Special Education – Laurel will attend

Don motions to approve potential costs for Laurel to attend MACS SPED conference , Dick seconds, no discussion, motion passes

16.Hiring of Charter School Financial Consultant

Don has been reviewing resumes and will work Kim and Laurel to determine top 3 candidates to contact for interviews

17.Lease Agreement

Dick shared revised lease, will change start date, and

Don motions to authorize Dick to proceed with lease revisions, discussion and negotiations between J.Cairns and B.Engstrom, Kim seconds

Discussion – Dick would like specific guidance from BOD with regards to escalation clause motion passes

18.Liability Insurance

Laurel will contact S.Dess and M.Gallagher to continue pursuing options

19.Telephones

Claire motions to table discussion until future meeting, Don seconds, no discussion, motion passes

20.Planning Collaboration/Board Handbook Development

Will discuss at 4/6/08 meeting

21.Communications Plan (email and documents)

Tabled

22.Marketing, Spending Money, Revision of Federal Grant

Tabled

23.Advertising for Teachers

Laurel, Kim, Claire will discuss further after receiving information from Dee and D.Thomas (EdVisions)

24.Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Kim provided April calendar
- 25. Office Space
 - Will discuss at next meeting
- 26. Committee Reports
 - Facilities-none
 - Curriculum-none
 - Marketing-Laurel shared Marketing and Outreach Strategies
 - Personnel-none
- 27. Board-Sponsor Discussion
 - None
- 28. Next Meeting Date and Place
 - 4/6/08 – Board Planning Meeting - D. Bend's home
 - 4/8/08 – BOD Meeting, 6:00 Parent Information Session/6:30 BOD
- 29. Consents Payable
 - University of Minnesota Center for School Change (\$360)
 - L.Tangen-Foster invoice (\$3127.50)
 - Don motions to approve above payments, Dick seconds, no discussion, motion passes
 - Audubon Center of the Northwoods – Start Up Services Package
 - o BOD will contact S.Dess to discuss before paying
- 30. Meeting Adjourned
 - Claire moves to adjourn meeting, Don seconds, no discussion, motion passes
 - Meeting adjourned at 10:01pm