

**Leelanau Montessori Public School Academy  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, January 16, 2017 7:00 p.m.  
310 Elm Street Suttons Bay, MI 49682**

**1. Call to Order:** Vice President Macdonald called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2. Oath of Office: New Trustee**

Vice President Macdonald administered the oath of office to new trustee Sarah Lutke.

**3. Roll Call:**

Vice President-Macdonald, Secretary- Chaney, Trustee-McConnell, Treasurer-Evans, Trustee-Martin, Trustee-Bennett, Trustee-Miezio, Trustee- Lutke

**Absent:** President- Sarah Bordeaux

**Others:** Eric Royston-Head of School (HOS), Arden Wilson, , Beth Bassett, Kallie Craker, Len Mankowski, AJ Penninga, Dani Geraci, Sarah Orth, Meagan Bardorff, Paige Bassett, Cathy Wurm, Steve Wurm, Tammie LaCross, Terri Orban, Jim Orban, Deb Shutt, Bethany Sparling, Field Carden, Amy Hubbell, Hollie Anderson, Amanda Cox, Jane Lee, Emma Kelly, Chelsea Boehrsen, Len Mankowski, Kelly Bedford

**4. Additions/Approval of January 16, 2017 Agenda:**

Vice President Macdonald requested adding a Public Comment section to Item 9- LMPSA/SBPS Proposed Merger.

**MOVED BY CHANEY SECONDED BY MCCONNELL TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 16, 2017 AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AYES: ALL NAYS: NONE ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED**

**5. Additions/Approval of the December 19, 2016 Meeting Notes:**

**MOVED BY BENNETT SECONDED BY MIEZIO TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 19, 2016 MEETING NOTES AS PRESENTED.**

**AYES: ALL NAYS: NONE ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED**

**6. Head of School Report:**

Head of School Eric Royston reviewed his submitted HOS report. Royston introduced Jane Lee the new upper elementary teacher. Jane introduced herself and gave a brief background. Royston updated the Board on the budget, title funding/ESSA funding, technology update, and the January strand report.

**Old Business**

**7. Committees:**

**a. Academic Excellence:** Martin commented that the committee will meet tomorrow.

**b. Facilities:** Macdonald commented no meeting was held.

**c. Finance:** Evans reviewed the submitted report and commented the committee met and finalized the budget amendment. The committee discussed planning for the 2017-18 school year, wish lists, and discontinuing use of the American Express card and looking at a Chemical Bank card for the general fund account.

**d. Fundraising:** Miezio commented the committee will meet next week and that upcoming events are dinner-to-go and evening of art. Miezio commented that Farmraiser fundraiser did not make as much money as they would like and the committee is looking at adding some incentives to the fundraiser.

**e. Governance:** Chaney reviewed the submitted report. Chaney commented that the committee is planning on a staff/board retreat in February. The committee has been working on updating policies, strategic plan, the MDE audit, the agenda for the staff/board retreat, and the proposed SBPS unification.

**f. Grants:** Bennett commented the committee is working on some grants and will meet this

Thursday.

**g. Marketing:** McConnell commented that the committee will meet soon and the updated video will be ready for the website.

**8. Ad Hoc Committee Update:** Macdonald commented that the committee has met several times and the committee is serving it's purpose. There will be a recommendation later in the meeting.

#### **New Business**

**9. LMPSA/SBPS Proposed Merger:** Superintendent Nelson presented his vision to the Board of an early childhood oasis. Mr. Nelson gave specific details of the budget, the potential cost to SBPS, the location of the class rooms in the building, and took questions from the audience. Mr. Nelson commented that app. 75 students (FTE) would be needed to support the proposed budget. Mr. Nelson spoke of an additional option to bring over the preschool children first and keep the charter for the 1-6<sup>th</sup> graders to see how it goes.

**Public Comment:** Hollie Anderson asked if there would just be one primary class room and Mr. Nelson commented that it would depend on numbers. Also the middle school in SB starts at 6<sup>th</sup> grade and our school includes 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Nelson commented there is a discussion at SB to create multi age class rooms in middle school. Sarah Orth questioned how the proposed model would be a Montessori experience. Arden Wilson questioned what the class size in SB schools is. Mr. Nelson commented that the class size averaged 28 and the sixth grade is at 40. Cathy Wurm asked Mr. Nelson if he has observed the toddler class room. Mr. Nelson commented he has not observed class rooms as much as he would like. Tammie LaCross questioned why there would only be one infant/toddler room because the Montessori toddler class room has been full every year. Mr. Nelson commented that the infant/toddler class room would use the Creative Curriculum that he considers very close to the Montessori philosophy. Terri Orban commented she supports our staff and the Montessori philosophy. Paige Bassett questioned where the preschool budget was in his proposal. Mr. Nelson commented the proposal includes numbers for the elementary/kindergarten FTE and the infant/toddler programs usually run at a loss and the 3-4 year old programs usually break even. Sarah Orth asked if there was another school that has done this before and Mr. Nelson said he didn't think so. Len Mankowski asked what would happen if the enrollment was not 75. Mr. Nelson said that decisions would need to be made at that time. Some asked where would the students from the current space be located and Mr. Nelson referred to the map of the class rooms. Arden Wilson asked if SB would be willing to adopt a Montessori vision statement and Mr. Nelson referred to the SB strategic planning team for decisions to be made. Discussion regarding the proposed rec center and where the Montessori would be housed next year. Meagan Batdorff commented that one of the deal breakers is that Montessori class rooms would be split up and this is not acceptable. Cathy Wurm commented that she appreciates the choice of Montessori that parents have. Arden Wilson commented that the Montessori parents are clear that they want an authentic Montessori. Len Mankowski presented the submitted ad hoc committee recommendation to the Board. Len said the committee's recommendation is for the LMPSA and SBPS Boards to agree to a written 1-3 year reauthorization agreement by June 2017 set in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The LMPSA charter reauthorization contract should begin upon expiration of the current charter authorization (expiration – June, 2018). Additional items would be included in the MOU. Deb Shutt thanked the Board and Mr. Nelson. The Board discussed the proposal and Miezio commented that she appreciated having more time to locate a space for the school. The Board agreed that getting a new authorizer would not be as hard as finding a new location. Chaney commented that it looks like it will be a challenge to get SB to renegotiate the charter extension. Macdonald commented that it is clear to her and she does not recommend unification and supports the ad hoc committee recommendation. After discussion it was agreed to create a letter from the Board using the recommendation from the ad hoc committee. Lutke suggested having the SB Board vote on the proposal from the ad hoc committee so we can move forward. McConnell commented that is the final closure piece that is missing and recommends the letter be written. Chaney agreed that new information was heard tonight and also recommends the letter.

***MOVED BY MIEZIO SECONDED BY MCCONNELL TO APPROVE SENDING A LETTER TO SUPERINTENDENT NELSON (SBPS BOARD'S AGENT) REQUESTING REAUTHORIZATION AS OUTLINED IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S FUTURE***

**OF THE SCHOOL RECOMMENDATION TO THE LMPSA BOARD. THE LETTER SHALL BE SUBMITTED BY FEBRUARY 1 WITH A REQUEST TO RECEIVE A RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF RECEIPT BY SBPS.  
AYES: ALL NAYS: NONE ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED**

**10. MDE Audit:** Chaney commented that it was SBPS being audited as the LMPSA charter authorizer. Chaney commented the Board needs to review testing and educational goals. It was commented in the audit that the LMPSA staffing was high and Chaney brought up that the Board needs to address the underpayment of staff.

\*Trustee- Emily Miezio leaves at 9:28 p.m.

**11. 2016-17 Budget Amendment- Resolution #1-2017:**

**MOVED BY MARTIN SECONDED BY MCCONNELL TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #1-2017 AS PRESENTED.  
ROLL CALL: MACDONALD-YES, EVANS-YES, MCCONNELL-YES, MARTIN-YES, BENNETT-YES, CHANEY-YES, LUTKE-YES  
AYES: ALL NAYS: NONE ABSENT: 2 (MIEZIO AND BORDEAUX) MOTION CARRIED**

**12. Amend Policies 5005 Attendance and 6007 Purchasing:**  
After reviewing the policies the following motions were made:

**MOVED BY MCCONNELL SECONDED BY EVANS TO APPROVE AMENDING POLICY 5005 ATTENDANCE AS PRESENTED.  
AYES: ALL NAYS: NONE ABSENT: 2 (MIEZIO AND BORDEAUX) MOTION CARRIED**

**MOVED BY EVANS SECONDED MCCONNELL TO APPROVE AMENDING POLICY 6007 PURCHASING AS PRESENTED.  
AYES: ALL NAYS: NONE ABSENT: 2 (MIEZIO AND BORDEAUX) MOTION CARRIED**

**13. Head of School Evaluation Policy:**  
**MOVED BY MCCONNELL SECONDED BY CHANEY TO APPROVE THE HEAD OF SCHOOL EVALUATION POLICY AS PRESENTED.  
AYES: ALL NAYS: NONE ABSENT: 2 (MIEZIO AND BORDEAUX) MOTION CARRIED**

**14. Public Comment:**  
Beth Bassett read a submitted letter to the Board.

**15. Board Comments:**  
Evans recommended moving forward that a working document be created on the steps to become an independent school. Macdonald commented that she was grateful for the Board appreciation celebration and all the hard work of the ad hoc committee. McConnell thanked the ad hoc committee which consists of many talented individuals and appreciates the process that has been followed and the path the school is going. Chaney commented he appreciates the unified approach the Board is taking. Bennett commented that she appreciates Eric support. Chaney asked Royston his feelings moving forward and he commented that he is concerned about the uncertainty of the future of the school and being able to find a space to be located. Royston is also questioning the how authentic our Montessori really is.

**16. Adjournment:** The Board agreed by consensus to adjourn at 10:03 p.m.

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