

**Leelanau Montessori Public School Academy
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 21, 2016 7:00 p.m.
310 Elm Street Suttons Bay, MI 49682**

1. Call to Order: President Bordeaux called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call: President-Bordeaux, Vice President-Macdonald, Secretary- Chaney, Trustee-McConnell, Treasurer-Evans, Trustee-Martin, Trustee-Bennett

Absent: Trustee-Miezio (excused)

Others: Eric Royston-Head of School (HOS), Arden Wilson-Program Director, Beth Bassett- Recording Secretary, Kallie Craker, Deb Shutt, Chris Nelson, Stacey Chacon, Sarah U'Ren, Cindy Hamelin, Jason Hamelin, Amy Beyer, Kira Davis, Pete Leabo, Sarah Lutke, Elizabeth Channer

3. Additions/Approval of November 21, 2016 Agenda:

***MOVED BY MACDONALD SECONDED BY EVANS TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 21, 2016 AGENDA AS PRESENTED.
AYES: ALL NAYS: NONE ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED***

4. Revisions/Approval of October 17, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes:

***MOVED BY MACDONALD SECONDED BY BENNETT TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 17, 2016 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.
AYES: ALL NAYS: NONE ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED***

5. Head of School Report: HOS Eric Royston reviewed his submitted HOS report. Royston reviewed enrollment and budget, MStep testing and the Parent Ed Night, staff updates, teacher and administration evaluations.

Old Business:

6. Committee Reports:

a. Academic Excellence: Martin reviewed her submitted report. Martin commented that the parent survey results will be forthcoming. Martin also commented that the committee is reviewing the evaluation tools and will be discussing the options at the Board retreat.

b. Facilities: Macdonald reviewed her submitted written report. Macdonald commented the committee reviewed the A3 model and what would be discussed at the November Board meeting. Macdonald commented that after listening to thoughts from various Board members and members of the community she recommends forming a task force. After discussion the following motion was made:

***MOVED BY MACDONALD SECONDED BY BENNETT TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FORMING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE SCHOOL PRIOR TO THE JUNE 2018 CHARTER AND LEASE RENEWAL AND MAKE A SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD AND THAT THE COMMITTEE CONSIST OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS, BOARD MEMBERS, PARENTS, AND STAFF.
AYES: ALL NAYS: NONE ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED***

c. Finance: Evans reviewed her submitted written report. Evans commented that the committee will meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. for brainstorming and then the Thursday after, a conference call with Wes Souden from TCAPS at 11:00 a.m. The committee will be looking at budget adjustments to present at the December meeting.

d. Fund Raising: Bordeaux reviewed her submitted written report.

e. Grant: Bennett reviewed her submitted written report.

f. Governance: Chaney reviewed his submitted written report.

g. Marketing: McConnell reviewed his submitted written report. McConnell commented that the next item to update is the video on the website.

MOVED BY BENNETT SECONDED BY MCCONNELL TO ACCEPT ALL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND THE NOVEMBER FINANCIALS AS PRESENTED.

AYES: ALL NAYS: NONE ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED

7. Leelanau Montessori/Suttons Bay Budget/Staff Request:

The Head of School Royston reviewed for the Board the spreadsheet of school and staff expenses that was prepared in conjunction with Suttons Bay Public School. Superintendent Nelson gave feedback about the school's budget and staffing costs and commented there is a more current spreadsheet. At this point, the draft spreadsheet showed a significant gap in funding if the school were merged with SBPS in its entirety (as it currently exists with the present staff). Royston stated he would get an updated spreadsheet to the Board.

Audience member Jason Hamelin asked if it was LMPA or SBPS that initiated the unification conversation and it was stated it was SBPS. Chaney asked Royston why the school's should merge in light of the history when the school's were together but there were issues about staff seniority v. expertise regarding teacher retention. It appears some of this tension may have led to the charter. Royston commented that there are new highly qualified rules in place. Chaney also mentioned the potential loss of the Montessori philosophy and independence. Macdonald commented that we want to keep the integrity of the program and stated that LMPA fills a need in the community. McConnell questioned what the purpose of merging would be and benefit to LMPA. Royston commented that it would help with staff turnover, more programming choices, and a diverse setting. Bordeaux asked where the 20% figure that was used to determine the amount of students LMPA may lose if LMPA does not merge and Royston commented that he just grabbed a number. Martin commented that it would be helpful to survey the LMPA community on what parents value about our school and the staff as well. Audience member Kira Davis asked if there would still be a Montessori Board if we merged and Superintendent Nelson commented no. Audience member Kallie Craker voiced her concern that there would be no accountability if we merged. Nelson commented that there could be a Montessori Committee created. Concerns were raised over the timeline and the need to have decisions made by the end of this year. Evans commented that we need to hear from the community and look at figures and numbers to make an informed decision. Nelson commented that SBPS has been subsidizing LMPA over the years and the transportation issue was discussed. Amy Beyer commented that her daughter transitioned well into SBPS and merging together could make us stronger. Kira Davis would like to see a task force created to identify obstacles.

New Business:

8. Board Retreat: The Board retreat will be Sunday, December 4th from 12-4.

9. Public Comment: Sarah U'Ren voiced her concern over the turnover rate of the upper elementary teacher and encouraged the Board to find someone who would stay. Arden Wilson commented that she is looking to secure the future of our school and attended a very worthwhile conference concerning Montessori in the public sector. Arden wants to protect the culture and climate of our school and gather the right people to make this happen. Whether we merge with Suttons Bay or go out on our own she wants to protect the integrity of the school. Pete Leabo commented that he appreciates the staff and all the passion they bring to the classrooms and school.

10. Board Comment: Martin commented that Suttons Bay Schools has asked us to join in the Supper with Santa event and they will send a flyer to put in our newsletter. The event is December 16th 5-7 p.m. Macdonald thanked Arden for her inspiration. Evans commented she hopes all can thrive in our community. Bennett thanked Superintendent Nelson for attending our meeting.

11. Adjournment: The Board agreed by consensus to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

President

Date

Secretary

Date

DRAFT