



Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

Minutes February 3, 2022

The second meeting of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering for the 2021-22 school term was held on February 3, 2022 at 3:30 pm via Zoom virtually.

Present: The following Directors were present virtually: Steve Bares (Chairman), Daniel Copp, Holly Coleman, Marc Taylor, Gary Lynch and Clifford Jackson. Executive Director Rodrick Gaston and Artunyala Hunter (MASE HR Admin Assistant-recording). Also present were Greg Thompson and Katie Wise.

Directors Absent

Darryl Jackson, Sondra Howell and Jessica Becker

Call to order:

At 3:34 pm, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Dr. Bares to form a quorum.

Dr. Bares made a motion to approve minutes from the MASE Board of Directors virtual meeting held on September 30, 2021, and All Board Directors VOTED to approve the motion.

Enrollment & Staff

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston opened with the state of the school without heat along with enrollment and staff. The school had been without heat for a couple of months. Extreme cold weather forced us to purchase heating units to warm classrooms and produce a more comfortable learning environment. After getting the boiler hooked up, we returned the heaters yesterday (February 2nd). Current enrollment is at 515 now. Students from MAHS have already begun to applying to join the MASE student family. Executive Director Rodrick Gaston feels positive about getting our numbers back via recruitment. We're fully staffed with the exception of Chemistry vacancy. Hopefully that vacancy will fill soon. We welcomed several new Teachers this year to carry us out throughout the remainder of 2021-22 school term.

Attendance

Attendance is pretty much the standard thus far with no major concerns. We have new seasoned experienced Attendance Clerk and will continue policing attendance with a high priority.

Highlights

We purchased three (3) buses and look forward to having them up and running very soon. They're currently going thru inspection. ED Rodrick Gaston was pleased to announce we were chosen one of three finalists as TN Charter of the Year. And again, we were nominated thru the Commercial Appeal's Top Work Place, which makes us back to back nominees. Hats Off to The Brotherhood Program lead by Curtis Weathers, which is positively impacting our young men. The program aired on TV and highlighted some of our young men. Pictures of our Senior's Luncheon were shared and was a huge success. Although it's been a struggle this school year term with space, we're still managing to have programs such as honors, etc in the cafeteria. And the Beat Goes On, thanks to our great decorating staff.

Academic Data

Benchmark data was shared reflecting our students are on track. The goal is to have over 25% over the mark. Seventh grades English and Social Studies declined because of sudden resignations, which left us short for a couple of weeks. On the plus side, we're excited about the increase in Science. Consultant David Hill helped us in the Math area by visiting classrooms and meeting with Instructional Coaches. There was growth from BMI to BMII. Unfortunately, we did experience some challenges due to absences of positive Covid-19 test results returning from the Holiday Break. Covid still continues to impact all schools putting everyone in the same boat. ED Rodrick Gaston is positive we will reach our goal with students testing in-person. Hopefully we won't be held accountable for Covid attendance. ACT Prep Teachers Ms. Ange & Mr. Hancock reported that our ACT numbers have been really strong this year. We do want our younger scholars to participate in Dual Enrollment because of ACT scores. As of December's ACT test results, we have about 32 students eligible for Dual Enrollment Program. Michigan State's Summer Program is seeking our students. The Program will afford them to attend college life by allowing them to live on campus. We will try to get Title I to sponsor and cover the cost (\$2000.00 per student). Gary Lynch boosted Michigan State's Program for Engineering Majors, which will enable them to get great jobs locally. We will get data to compare scores of students that take ACT courses verses those not taking the courses. Although the composite 19 is considered college ready, we're pushing for 21 for scholarships/free tuition. career.

Facilities/Real Estate

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston proposed to hire someone to lead/guide us in real estate. Our 10-year building renewal is fastly approaching in 2023. Not having heat nor access to MCBB caused problems of dealing with concerned parents and complaints from students. Althea Green visited us and spoke with Superintendent Ray to express our interest in attaining the NW Prep building which will be vacant because they're moving to Airways. So we're seeking the Board to approve us to seek that building. It's important for us to hire Real Estate Agent Darrell Cobbins to help us with renovating ideas of such an old building that needs a lot of work. Greg Thompson raised concerns about us not overpaying for the building with SCS. Contact will be made to the Charter Office to express our interest for the building to begin the process. Our Charter renewal is due April 1st. Because we've had good score-card over the past years, we should be recommended for renewal.

Budget & Financial discussion:

Segue HR Representative Greg Thompson presented financial report. Low enrollment has us about \$675K less than our normal budget. Lower cash balances the past of months have resulted from slow payments of grant reimbursements by SCS. The Chair proposed to apply for line of credit in case there was a gap of expenses while waiting on reimbursements, although no imminent concern existed. This was unanimously approved by the board.

Adjourn:

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Steven J. Bares, Chairman