



Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

Minutes February 20, 2024

The second 2023-24 school term meeting of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering was held on MASE's campus in the Conference Room on February 20, 2024 at 3:30pm.

Present: All Directors were present: Darryl Jackson, Marc Taylor, Sondra Howell, Gary Lynch, Clifford Jackson & Olayinke Mohorn-Mintah. Dr. Bares (Chairman) and Holly Coleman attended virtually. Also present were Executive Director Rodrick Gaston, Artunyala Hunter (MASE HR Admin Assistant-recording) and Greg Thompson.

Directors Absent

None

Call to order:

At 3:36 pm, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Darryl Jackson to form a quorum, seconded by All.

Director Gary Lynch and Chairman Dr. Bares seconded to approve the minutes from the MASE Board of Directors virtual meeting held on September 28, 2023. All Board Directors VOTED to approve the motion.

On Campus

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston opened and expressed his happiness to be in "one" place for almost an entire school year. Still making strives to make the building conducive to a great learning environment.

Enrollment & Staff

Mr. Gaston discussing record and attendance. Although we currently have 660 students, the District is only paying us for 646. Working with District to get paid for all students. They're underpaying us based on daily attendance. Pretty confident it will all true-up.

We just filled 2 vacant positions in STEM and Science. Excited Avionics just kicked off with 6 students.

Attendance

We recently switched Attendance Staff, which is already going in a more positive direction. We concluded some students just weren't good fits for MASE. We learned that sometimes their discipline records were misleading and didn't prove to be as true as records reflected. Going forward, we will do a better job with screening for new students.

Highlights

We had the White Coat ceremony for Pharmacy Tech program Naval Academy. They each do receive certification. High School Boys Basketball team are City Champions.

Academics

Dean of Curriculum Kimlynn Grice presented the review of academic data of Benchmarks I & II along with TCAP / EOC updates and ACT data. She explained that absences and tardiness play a huge part and impacted the decline in scores. Directors asked "who writes the curriculum"? She replied that we use Fish Tank+ and Mastery Connect for Benchmark testing which mirrors TCAP as much as possible. The goal is to familiarize kids with test. Mr. Gaston explained that we're more on track with Benchmark II with the real test more with Benchmark III, which is cumulative. Board Members expressed concerns with test scores and methods to heighten them and bring up more and meet standards of the expected. Mrs. Grice added that some of the newer hired teachers fell short in teaching and noted that some things are sugar-coated on their resumes. Because there's a teacher shortage, we have to pull from "slim pickings". The fact that we're currently teaching bi-weekly is also a contributing factor. Not to mention we suddenly lost two (2) teachers with short notice and one (1) teacher out on pregnancy bed rest for the rest of the school term, all of whom are tested subject teachers. Also, our Middle School Social Studies Teacher returned late from maternity leave. But we feel confident that we will reach the goal for BM III. Mrs. Grice explained that we're using our data and sharing in POC meetings. We just had our Academic Olympics which recognize Top Kids as well as kids that are growing. We pushing our parents to get more involved with academics.

Academic Goals

Curriculum Deans are putting together an action for Benchmark III with a different approach. We're disappointed to have scored D last year on Report Card. We're excited to have scored 5 in multiple categories. We're actually growing. Records reflect students grow when they arrive to MASE. We also see growth from students that have tested multiple times. ACT is 10% of our Report Card. The ultimate goal is an A or B. We're actually on track in comparison to District .

Facilities/Real Estate

Chair Director Dr. Bares discussed operations, real estate and current lease offer. We're still looking for long-term rental options.

Budget & Financial discussion:

Segue HR Representative Greg Thompson presented financial report.

Adjourn:

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Steven J. Bares, Chairman