

Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering

Minutes August 25, 2022

The final meeting of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering for the 2021-22 school term was held on August 25, 2022 at 3:30 pm via Zoom virtually.

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

Directors Absent

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 February 3, 2022, and All Board Directors VOTED to approve the motion.

Enrollment & Staff

Executive Director Rodrick Gaston opened with the good news of enrollment increase from 502 to current enrollment of 591. We're back on track with numbers. An influx of new student interest caused us to place an end date to avoid overcrowded classrooms. We're at 100% with staff/faculty. Rodrick Gaston presented slide show that reflected improvement in the 2021-22 Goals & Accomplishment, which closed the achievement GAP.

Attendance

Our new Attendance Clerk aided with controlling the attendance ending the school term with significant improvement in attendance.

Highlights

We purchased a total of four (4) buses to provide our own student transportation as a cost saver. We also added a Cordova route to extend transportation for our students all over Shelby County. They all passed inspection and are up and running. This year we replaced some Math teachers because of absenteeism. We're pleased to have our former best Math teacher (Chauncey Lane) rejoin the MASE Team. We still look good overall for the 2021-22 Operational Scoreboard. However, our HR number (1) was low because of non-certified teachers. We just received the card this past Tuesday. Unfortunately one of our STEM programs (Moore Tech) cut out some of their funding. Channel 5 Action News spotlighted MASE for the adopting Yondr, in which our student cell phone policy was revised to allow them to bring their cell phones, but maintain them in the Yondr pouch throughout the day, unable to utilize without breaking its safety device. This resulted in a major decrease and limit in classroom distractions. Therefore, students were more engaged and focused more in classrooms.

Academic Data

Our graduation rate remained at 95% and we're now tracking both types of scholarships. Although ACT trends decreased for the 2021-22 school year, we're at 17.4 and getting back on track. We're still reaching for 21 for scholarships/free tuition. This year we elected not to hire/fill 8th grade ELA teacher vacancy. Instead, we added 8th grade ELA to our current 9th grade teachers' curriculum to ensure those students will be where they needed to be when promoting to the 9th grade. Rodrick Gaston presented slide show of the schools 2022-23 Goals. Naviance's Alumni & Student Tracker will enable us to track the seniors' activity and success post graduation after leaving MASE. School Counselor Joyce Niter will connect with other schools that use Naviance to gain more insight of the program's success rate. We need to ensure we're spending ESSER funds appropriately. Because of the adoption of our new curriculum, we're confident the Math scores will increase. Benchmark data was shared reflecting our students are on track. Director Holly Coleman expressed concerns about the fluctuation of Science and Social Studies scores. It was explained that the fluctuation was primarily due to changes in those subject tests, which is a little more challenging to the students.

Facilities/Real Estate

Dr. Bares expressed the biggest issue on the table is our 10-year Renewal. We will submit letter of intent to Fit Ops with hopes of revamping space with MBCC. Still awaiting NW Prep to become available. Darrell Cobbins is looking for other facilities because we know realistically SCS will try to gauge price of NW Prep.

Budget & Financial discussion:

Segue HR Representative Greg Thompson presented financial report. Our transportation cost decreased because we now have internal services and we will have a higher BEP grant & ESSER. We should see savings of thousands by owning our buses. We're contemplating purchasing a 5th bus.

Adjourn:

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 pm.

Steven J. Bares, Chairman