

MASON CLASSICAL ACADEMY



3073 South Horseshoe Drive South (Zoom Meeting)
Naples, Florida 34104
(239) 227-2838 | WWW.MASONACADEMY.COM

Minutes Board of Directors Meeting: Friday, May 29, 2020 @ 12:30 PM

Board and Staff Present

Kelly Lichter – President
Dave Bolduc - Treasurer
Laura Miller Mlinarich - Secretary
Pearline Foster – Director
David Hull – Executive Director
Annaleah Miravalle DeMasi- Parent
Liaison
Joe Whitehead – Principal Designee

Absent

Late

Opening Items

Agenda Item	Action	Who
Call to Order 12:38 PM		Kelly Lichter
A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order.		

Motion to Appoint Mr. Whitehead as Principal Designee for this Meeting:

Moved: Dave Bolduc
Second: Pearline Foster
Vote: Unanimous

Motion to Adopt Agenda, with President's Report Removed:

Moved: Dave Bolduc
Second: Pearline Foster
Vote: Unanimous

Laura Mlinarich updated the Board regarding the status of items on the consent agenda:

“Under the supervision of Principal Vickaryous, our former compliance officer was delegated the responsibility for the board meeting minutes in late October of last year. For some reason, in March of this year, he abruptly stopped submitting them to the board. When I requested that Principal Vickaryous provide the missing minutes, she denied ever having agreed to have her staff member take on the responsibility, even though Mr. Moore had been doing so for several months, consistently. She did send me rough drafts of missing meetings, which I have been working to research and complete since there were omissions and mistakes in their notes.

I have taken the minutes from the date of Mr. Moore's contract termination, and those are on the consent agenda

for your approval. But up until today we were unable to find any of Mr. Moore's rough drafts. Late this morning, Mr. Steer thankfully discovered that Mr. Moore had deleted a batch of files including the minutes he had withheld. I will work with staff quickly to restore and complete the missing minutes and will have them on the consent agenda by our next meeting.

On another note, I have an amendment to the April 28th meeting minutes. I reached out to our attorney to discuss a technical glitch in a recent zoom meeting, and after learning more from staff, realized that I needed to make a minor correction. The last paragraph before "Community Comments" should read:

"In order to establish the closed attorney-client session ("Shade Session") between counsel and board members, Mr. Steer had to temporarily disconnect the public "Zoom" meeting. At the conclusion of the Shade Session, the board members as well as members of the public were able to rejoin the meeting using the original link and password for the public board meeting, posted on the MCA website."

Mr. Bolduc confirmed with Mr. Steer that Mr. Moore had deleted the files including his drafts of meeting minutes immediately after the board meeting when his contract was terminated, on 4/14/2020.

Motion to adopt Consent Agenda with the Removal of Minutes from Four March Meetings; a Correction on the 4/28/2020 Minutes as Stated; and BOD Meeting Minutes Dated:

- 4/14/2020
- 4/28/2020
- 4/30/2020
- 5/4/2020

Moved: Laura Mlinarich
Second: Dave Bolduc
Vote: Unanimous

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Executive Director Report

-Mr. David Hull:

Enrollment:

At this time, we have 979 students enrolled for 2020/2021, 623 applications, and 297 on the wait list. We anticipate attrition over the summer as always, but our numbers continue to remain very strong.

Staffing:

Staffing for next year is almost complete, with very few teaching and staff positions left to fill. The hiring process will continue throughout the summer as usual. Gena Smith is a tremendous help with this. She spends countless hours, even over the weekends and evenings, calling candidates, putting together resumes. It is a large task and every year, she goes above and beyond and she is on point again this year. We are nearly ready for next year. Our new Business Manager, Richard Becker, has been an outstanding addition, and we are extremely happy to have him on board. He came in with tremendous experience and is learning about the school, gaining the background knowledge with regard to banks, the landlord... doing it all.

Grading Practices:

It's 'business as usual' for grading practices. We continue to grade as we did when the children were in school. Although hard copies will not be given out this quarter, report cards will be available on June 5 through Gradicus. We are very grateful to our teachers for their dedication to the students and for all their hard work getting those grades in on time. All parents have access to Gradicus and can view their children's report cards at

that time. Questions about this can be directed to Mr. Steer, who is also a tremendous help behind the scenes. He is always there for us, and very supportive. From the entire Gradicus program, which he wrote and designed, to locating all these records, and all the technology initiatives we have been going through... he is just right there, every time we need him, nights, days and weekends. **THANK YOU, MS. SMITH, MR. STEER, MR. BECKER AND OUR AMAZING FACULTY!**

Online Learning Plan:

Thanks to everyone for pushing through the online learning plan! It was amazing to be a part of a traditional, classical school that promotes knowledge for its own sake rather than technology, to instruct online during a global pandemic. MCA teachers, students, and parents really deserve a 'pat on the back' for making that work so well these past few months!

Kindergarten 'Goodbye':

A "Kindergarten Goodbye" will happen on Tuesday. Parents will drive through the car line so their children can wave to teachers and say goodbye. That will help to promote a positive ending to their first year of school. Mrs. Lingsch (a phenomenal person of character and a phenomenal teacher) and her team initiated and arranged this because they thought it would be emotionally beneficial for their students. The MCA Kindergarten faculty is truly top-notch!

Supply Drop Off:

Supply Drop Off is Wednesday. Students will drop off textbooks and laptops at the school. As usual, health and safety measures will be implemented due to the pandemic. Thanks to our teachers and staff who will be at the school for a long day to help with this process.

Senior Thesis Week:

Senior Thesis Week concluded successfully. All 24 seniors wrote their 20-page paper on 'what is essential to living a good life,' (a capstone requirement we do every year), they presented it online, and defended it through questioning by faculty. ***Congratulations to them on this major accomplishment!*** Thanks to (new father!) Mr. Harned, Ms. Annaleah Miravalle DeMasi, Mr. Steer and others for their assistance through this event.

Graduation:

Graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 5. It is complete with commencement speaker, ***Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart***; singing of the Alma Mater by Ms. Watson, Ms. Rutherford and Ms. Ladewski; announcements of graduates; and even the tossing of the caps. A special thanks goes to long-time MCA parent Angelo Viahakis for assisting with this project. He is the owner of **Genesis Aerialography** and he volunteered to record drone footage for the graduation video.

This class of 24 students is approaching ***EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS (\$8,000,000) IN SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS! Two or possibly three of these students are headed to the United States Military, and we would like to thank them in advance for their service to our country, for their courage and for their patriotism!*** MCA works hard to assist students in securing scholarships and grants. Special thanks to the team MCA staffs specifically to assist in those efforts. Small class size is also a wonderful contributing factor to this success.

Gratitude:

On behalf of the administrative team, I would like to extend our ***gratitude to those teachers and parents who have been so supportive*** over these past few months, and for hanging in there even though the negativity and noise can seem overwhelming at times. It gets very hard for people to accomplish their jobs. While a select few obsess with destroying and negatively influencing others, we intend to strive toward creating and positively influencing others, including children. Our aim is still toward creating pathways for successful learning, opportunities for teachers to actually teach and do their jobs, and a school that other schools can look to for great

instructional practices. It is my strong opinion that if the pandemic did not shut down classrooms and cancel state testing, MCA would have advanced from the top 2% to the top 1% of all Florida public schools this year. Nevertheless, we will view this as an opportunity to work even harder next year, persevering through noise and challenges, delivering quality, classical education for any child who wants to join the school, regardless of race, religion, or income. *We look forward to opening in August of 2020!*

Laura Mlinarich:

Bravo! We are so incredibly proud of what your team has done and so grateful to Mr. Hull for being there and pulling us out of the ditch this year when we have had such an enormous challenge. I can't believe how blessed we are to have you and your team, and to have this wonderful opportunity with these beautiful children. I'm overwhelmed right now with gratitude. Thank you!

Dave Bolduc:

I would like to add that I don't think we could have had a better final report from the executive director to finish the school year. *Bravo to everyone!*

Kelly Lichter:

Thank you. This is just incredible. Wow! It's truly amazing. *I think all of us can agree we are proud to be Paladins! We will continue to be leading champions of this cause, not just this year, but for many years to come.*

Financial Committee Update:

Dave Bolduc:

The Finance Committee Meeting May 26, 2020, 4:00 PM with three members in attendance: Dave Bolduc, Kent Kyle and John Mummert was a postponement a meeting of the Committee which was attempted on April 27, 2020. (Since the 5 Year Budget was emailed to the Committee by Principal Vickaryous only 15 minutes prior to the scheduled meeting, and the Committee asked Vickaryous to clarify numerous discrepancies within the proposed 2020/2021 Budget, no action could be taken at that time. Thus, the meeting was rescheduled for May 26, 2020. A verbal update report was submitted to the board by Mr. Bolduc regarding the rescheduling.)

The Committee then met on the 26th of May and voted unanimously to recommend the proposed 2020/2021 Budget, the proposed 5 Year Budget and the 2020/2021 Salary Schedule to the Governing Board.

Kelly Lichter:

Thank you to Misters Bolduc, Kyle and Mummert for their efforts and time pulling this together, and also to Mr. Becker for his assistance in a job well done.

Community Comments

Jana Greer:

Mrs. Greer said that she had "been a parent at MCA since the school opened and found myself knee deep in figuring out what was going on last summer when the district posted a termination notice after Fishbane's report came out. That termination notice – (Mr. Fishbane has denied exists - which is mind boggling when it is public record). Mr. Fishbane has not only denied that termination notice he has continued to spend tax payer money listening to concerned or angry parents - despite the mediation settlement saying that the district should be directing parents to the grievance policy -- I have the Fox bills for that as proof. From my perspective, the district has not followed contract policy with MCA and they haven't changed since, but that is not the point of my comment.

"Mr. Fishbane along with Mr. Fox have accused this board of blocking people from Facebook groups, accused the board of having a Facebook live within that group and giving private access to a board meeting. They also received and viewed a recording that was not authorized of a meeting I hosted at the first of this year with a group of parents and Mrs Lichter, then used a snippet of that recording against the board.

“Mr. Fishbane and Mr. Fox have not once asked me personally about these groups, despite the fact that I wrote the CCPS board after being accused by Mr. Durst of such allegations. They did not ask about the private meeting I hosted either. For the record, there is no law against recording or streaming a meeting and whatever medium that that public citizen chooses to do as in fact by law they are allowed. Not only that I know that several parents record the board meetings so that they can be viewed by Mr. Fox and Mr. Fishbane.

“Board, I am sorry that my group as a citizen and MCA parents has caused such an issue. But today, as a public record - I am again stating that this school and therefore board does not run, control, or have any say in the Facebook groups I run. The accusations need to stop.

“Now, it is really sad that I have to state this, as I personally was removed from an "MCA sports/carpool group" run by another MCA parent. I didn't go to these attorneys saying that the board was blocking me and rail false accusations against people. I realized that this parent had the right to have her group and do what she wanted with it. Why is it that these same parents can't realize that about other parents and their groups?

“I have written the CCPS Board as well to say to them, that this needs to stop. As the fiduciaries of this county, they are spending taxpayer funds to have an attorney write lies about people and therefore seemingly embolden a few angry parents to call the board and other people criminals when there is not ONE criminal charge to be brought or even one criminal law broken that would bring charges of a crime. All of that is just defamation and this board should seek the law and court system on a remedy for this.

“I am thankful that the charter committee approved the amendments to the charter - as they should - and that MCA can continue to serve many families and this community for years to come. Again, I am sorry that these accusations have been made not just about this, but all the other false allegations as well.”

Chris Durst:

Durst spoke regarding MCA’s leadership. (*His comments did not comply with MCA’s policy for respectful public comments or meet its standards regarding the requirement to refrain from abusive or personally directed speech, even though all public speakers were reminded of the policy immediately prior.*) “The end.”

Kelly Lichter:

Mrs. Lichter asked Mr. Steer, for the record, if she had directed him to block any @MasonAcademy accounts. He stated that she had not directed him to do so.

New Business

Salary Planning 2020/2021:

-Dave Bolduc:

The Finance Committee recommends approval of the Salary Planning which was discussed and reviewed by the committee.

Motion to Approve Salary Planning for 2020/21:

Moved:	Laura Mlinarich
Second:	Pearline Foster
Vote:	Unanimous

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget:

-Dave Bolduc

The Finance Committee recommends approval of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, which was discussed and

reviewed by the committee.

Motion to Approve Fiscal Year 2021 Budget:

Moved: Laura Mlinarich
Second: Dave Bolduc
Vote: Unanimous

New Board Member:

Kelly Lichter-

Mrs. Epperson is an MCA parent of four children who previously attended another public school.

Motion to Approve Mrs. Natalie Epperson as a Director on the Governing Board of MCA, fulfilling the unexpired portion of former Director, Mr. Conrad Willkomm's term:

Moved: Laura Mlinarich
Second: Pearline Foster
Vote: Unanimous

Charter Amendment:

Kelly Lichter-

Motion to Adopt Agenda, with President's Report Removed:

Moved: Dave Bolduc
Second: Pearline Foster
Vote: Unanimous

Limited-Scope Engagement Letter:

Kelly Lichter-

Motion to Adopt Agenda, with President's Report Removed:

Moved: Dave Bolduc
Second: Pearline Foster
Vote: Unanimous

Board Comments

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Meeting Adjourned

6:03 PM

Secretary

Date