



7. Chair's Report – Cheri Howe.  
Cheri noted that the Board of Directors has been very busy addressing changes.
8. Standing Committee Reports:
  - a. **Budget (Cyndi B/Sandeep C/Lori N): Meeting Update from 5/9/12**  
Cyndi Bluhm – The budget committee made additional changes to the 2012-2013 proposed budget. Benefits were adjusted with a conservative estimate. The total adjustments came to \$31,156 which increased the projected surplus to \$70,983. The board will be voting to approve the 2012-2013 budget later in this meeting.
  - b. **Building/Maintenance (Rachael E):**  
Paul Simone spoke in Rachael's absence – No report other than Bruce Sorenson and Bob Engstrom will be meeting with the MSA Building Company in determining what essential elements are needed to get bond financing. Committee will be meeting with Piper Jaffrey to discuss what is needed to finance through bonding. Conventional financing requires a down payment. Bond financing does not require a down payment, however it requires a higher interest rate. MSA would need an appraisal. The price of the appraisal can be from \$8,000 - \$15,000 and all depends on the financing option selected by the MSA building committee. Cheri Howe commented that the erosion in the back of the school is bad. Paul Simone mentioned that Building Maintenance would need to take care of this by submitting a proposal to the board, as it requires board approval.
  - c. **Enrollment (Rachael E/Michelle K):**  
Michelle Kurkoski – No update
  - d. **Personnel (Lisa A/Cheri H): Meeting updates from 4/24/12.**  
Lisa Anderson – The search committee for the new MSA Director has started the first round of interviews with applicants. They plan to finish up next week and will then start second round interviews. The committee wants the final candidates to spend time at the school casually visiting with students, teachers, parents and the MSA Board Members. The committee can advance one or more candidates to the Board of Directors for final selection. The goal would be for the committee to advance two candidates, however if there is a third candidate that has just as strong qualifications, then three candidates can be advanced to the board. There was also discussion of some sort of survey that would be open to the whole MSA community to help voice preference for a candidate.
  - e. **Technology (David H/Cheri H):**  
David Halstead – Justin is researching the cost of purchasing desks which house a computer inside the desk. An advantage is that the desk top is available when the computer is not used.
  - f. **Parent Team (Sandeep):**  
Sandeep Chandak – Nothing new since the last parent team meeting other than the staff appreciation lunch was put on by parent volunteers.
  - g. **Policy (Michelle K/Lisa A): Policy Revisions 103, 103.5 and 426:**  
Michelle Kurkoski – There are additional policies that need to be reviewed and approved at future workshops\board meeting.
  - h. **Student Committee (Alison Creeger):**  
Alison Creeger – At the last student council meeting, 11 students volunteered to participate on the student search committee for the new director. Applications for the Student Representatives to the MSA Board of Directors are due tomorrow (Friday). The applications will be posted next week and then voted on by students from grades 8-11 the following week.
  - i. **High School League Activities Committee (Jerry H): molly boys 1<sup>st</sup> girls 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Robotics received a grant 2175 from society of American engineers. Baseball 8-6**  
Jerry Hall – Boys track recently finished 1<sup>st</sup> and the girls 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The Robotics team received a grant from the Society of American Engineers in the amount of \$2175. Sandeep Chandak mentioned that the MSA baseball team is 8-6.
  - j. **Academics Committee (Michelle K/Lisa A):**  
Michelle Kurkoski – The committee has a preliminary meeting scheduled for next Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. The agenda is posted on the MSA website. The committee plans to have regular meetings during the 2012-2013 school year.

k. **Alternative Funding Committee (Jerry H):**

Jerry Hall – The University of St. Thomas Capitol Campaign team presented their final report to MSA representatives. Each board member received a copy of this final report. Paul Simone stated that the report recommends that MSA should start raising money now. The report details various strategic approaches on fundraising. An area in the report lists businesses and contacts of companies more apt to donate in Woodbury and in the state. Paul recommends that MSA pay someone to coordinate the fundraising efforts. MSA can raise the money for the new building and then give the money to the MSA Building Company. The fundraising detailed in the final report can be done whether a building is built or not. Jerry felt the report did not give MSA enough brand identity. It didn't say what MSA is all about, like the good test scores, etc. With brand identity, donors would feel good about where their money is going. Jerry is talking to 3M people, to learn what wins with companies, when asked for donations. He is going to meet with additional 3M staff to determine how to create a MSA brand identity which would generate donations. Jerry plans to present some brand identity samples at a future meeting.

9. Consent Agenda: No consent agenda items at this meeting.

10. Unfinished Business: **Motion to approve English Department Curriculum changes and graduation requirements for Language Arts.**

Moved by: Cyndi Bluhm

Second: David Halstead

Vote: no vote; motion withdrawn

Discussion: Lori Nixon voiced concern that the additional information provided to board members from the English Department regarding the curriculum changes, did not address what was discussed at the last meeting. The PSEO requirements need to be addressed. As it currently stands, a PSEO student ends up taking more rigorous classes and puts in more credit hours in order to satisfy the MSA Language Arts requirements. Lori reviewed the state requirements for Language Arts and researched what other charter schools and South Washington County require of their PSEO students for Language Arts equivalents. A hand out titled *PSEO Requirements for District 833 Students* was provided to the board members.

Susan Mooney, MSA PSEO Coordinator, explained in more detail by drawing the MSA English Curriculum requirements on a white board, along with indicating how they affect PSEO students, per Lori's concerns.

Lori would like to amend the motion to include that a single PSEO course of 4 semester credits or more to be accepted to fulfill multiple MSA requirements, equivalent to one year of high school courses, in the corresponding Literature or Writing subject area. The subject area requirements would not be combined. In addition, Lori also suggested that Speech be one of the English 9 requirements and not an additional requirement to what is currently in place.

Susan Mooney is aware of the English Department's position on the proposed amendment and stated that they do not agree with the changes included in the amendment.

Cyndi Bluhm withdrew her motion.

The motion will be brought up at another time after more information is provided and the PSEO requirements have had additional review and are clearly documented. Paul Simone requested that the academic committee include this discussion at their next meeting. The English Department curriculum changes would not go into effect until the 2013-2014 school year, however the department needs to know soon so they can move forward with preparation of the courses.

11. New Business

a. **Motion to approve Amending the MSA By-Laws Section III MEMBERSHIP (3-parent, 3-teachers, 3-community members)**

Moved by: Sandeep Chandak      Second: Cyndi Bluhm

Vote: **7 Yes on the amended motion** (Cheri Howe, Michelle Kurkoski, Jerry Hall, Lisa Anderson, David Halstead, Cyndi Bluhm, Lori Nixon) **1 No** (Sandeep Chandak), **0 Abstain**

**Amended motion reads: Motion to approve Amending the MSA By-Laws Section III MEMBERSHIP (3-parent, 4-teachers, 2-community members)**

Discussion: Lisa Anderson questioned Paul Simone on what evidence he had that changing the board membership composition would move the school in the right direction and questioned why the composition had not been previously changed if it is what would be good for the school. Paul stated that it would create a balance of representatives. It was never made a priority before and was brought up now due to the many

decisions that MSA to make and Paul feels that a balance of representation can assist and follow through with what the organization needs. Paul feels that outside board member expertise can help with some of these decisions. David Halstead voiced concern that with the board addressing so many changes currently, whether the grass roots work that has already been done would be affected with a board member composition change. Cyndi Bluhm reminded the group that the new members making up the new composition would not be sitting on the board until January 2013 and that all decisions based on changes going on right now would be decided and in place by that time. There was discussion of board members being the chairs on the sub-committees. Paul reminded the group that the board members are the liaisons to the committees and do not need to chair the sub-committees. Cheri Howe feels that a board member needs to be the chair of the sub-committee they represent. The parent team is a sub-committee of the MSA board where the liaison works very well with the board member attending the Parent Team meetings and reporting information back to the board of directors.

With regards to the current teacher majority, Lori Nixon recently attended Board of Director training which was run by a lawyer who works with charter schools. She noted that a quorum of teachers, actively sitting on the board of directors, who discuss board information in the break room, etc., are breaking the open meeting laws and could be subject to fines and removal from the board.

David Halstead understands that MSA needs to grow in order to be competitive, however he did not feel there was any guarantee that the board member composition change would have helped in that area three years from now.

Michelle Kurkoski voiced a preference to not delay a decision to change the board composition. She would like to see any new board members to get involved sooner by providing a transition to reduce shell shock and to allow new members to be more productive when they are formally seated on the board of directors.

Cyndi Bluhm agreed that the decision to change the composition should not be delayed.

Cheri Howe felt that she does not have enough information that would indicate changing the board composition would be of benefit to the school.

Cheri would like to amend the motion to include the composition of: **(3-parents, 4-teachers, 2-community members)** versus the 3-3-3 equal member representation composition.

Moved by: Cheri Howe Second: David Halstead

Vote: **6 Yes to amend the motion** (Cheri Howe, Michelle Kurkoski, Jerry Hall, Lisa Anderson, David Halstead, Lori Nixon) **2 No** (Cyndi Bluhm, Sandeep Chandak), **0 Abstain**

Discussion: Sandeep Chandak feels that there is a reluctance of letting a teacher majority go and wanted to understand why that is. Lori Nixon does not feel that the amendment is a teacher majority and feels that this amendment change would reduce anxiety that the teachers might have.

The amended by-laws will go to the licensed teaching staff for a vote. If there are 51% in favor of the changed by-laws the change is recorded and the amended by-laws come back to the board for a second vote.

b. **Motion to approve CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to conduct the MSA FY12 audit**

Moved by: Cyndi Bluhm Second: Lisa Anderson Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: This is the same firm that has been used for MSA audits in the past.

c. **Motion to approve 2012-2013 Budget**

Moved by: Cyndi Bluhm Second: Sandeep Chandak Vote: Unanimous

d. **Motion to approve 2012-2013 Staff Handbook**

This item was remove from the 5/17/2012 meeting agenda.

e. **Motion to approve 2012-2013 Course book**

This item was remove from the 5/17/2012 meeting agenda.

f. **Motion to approve Cheri Howe as Board Chair and Sandeep Chandak as Board Vice Chair.**

Moved by: David Halstead Second: Lori Nixon

Vote: **7 Yes** (Michelle Kurkoski, Jerry Hall, Lisa Anderson, David Halstead, Cyndi Bluhm, Lori Nixon, Sandeep Chandak) **0 No, 1 Abstain** (Cheri Howe)

g. **Motion to approve Policy 103 as amended in the Board Workshop.**

Moved by: Michelle Kurkouski Second: Lisa Anderson Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: Cheri Howe asked if all board members were comfortable with all of the changes. Sandeep Chandak questioned that although they are approving the policy per the workshop changes that the revised final version is emailed with the option of discussing the final version at the next workshop. All agreed.

- h. **Motion to use up to \$800 from the MSA general fund for a modest recognition event for the out going director.**

Moved by: David Halstead

Second: Lisa Anderson

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: Cyndi Bluhm checked with Judith Darling (BKDA) and the auditors to confirm that it is ok to utilize public funds for this event. Cyndi received in writing that it was ok, as it is a benefit to the students. Sandeep Chandak asked whether the general fund had the fund to cover the expenses and Cyndi acknowledged that there are sufficient funds.

12. Information: **2011-2012 Parent Survey –**

Discussion: Board members received the proposed annual parent survey which will be on the agenda for approval at the next board meeting. Paul Simone requested that all corrections should be sent to him.

13. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Future agenda Items list:

i. Board Workshop: Staff Handbook, Student Course book, Non-substantive policy changes, Safety Committee, Presentation by Jerry Hall on MSA brand identity.

ii. Board Agenda: Staff Handbook, Staff Contracts, Student Course book, Non-substantive policy changes, Parent survey, Amended By-Laws (2<sup>nd</sup> vote).

- b. Regular Board Meeting - Third Thursday of the Month 6:30pm

c. Date and Time of Next BOD Meeting - May 31<sup>st</sup> 6:30 p.m.

d. Date and Time of Workshop - May 31<sup>st</sup> 5:00 p.m.

14. Adjourn by Cheri Howe at 9:15 p.m.

Moved by: Cheri Howe

Second: Cyndi Bluhm

Vote: Unanimous