

APPROVED

Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes Math & Science Academy Monday, March 2, 2020 Room 10A

8430 Woodbury Crossing, Woodbury, MN 55125

1. Call to Order by Lisa Anderson at 5:00 pm

Vision and Mission read by Emily Wong.

2. Roll Call of Members

Present:

Voting:

Lisa Anderson, Chair & Teacher Member
Noah Langseth, Treasurer & Teacher Member
Judy Seeberger, Secretary & Teacher Member
Cody Schneipp, Community Member
Adam Bartz, Community Member
Jeff Eng, Vice Chair & Parent Member
Dan Ellingson, Parent Member

Non-voting:

John Gawarecki, Director (ex officio)
Emily Wong, Student Member

Absent:

Voting:

Michelle Kurkoski, Teacher Member
Ramesh Aki, Parent Member

Non-Voting:

Judith Darling, BKDA, Contracted Financial Manager (ex officio)

3. Approval of Agenda:

Discussion:

None.

Motion to approve the agenda.

Moved by: Cody Schneipp Second: Jeff Eng

Vote: 7-yes 0-no 0-abstain

The motion carries.

Michelle Kurkoski entered the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

4. Agenda Items

a. Change in Term Limits

APPROVED

Discussion:

The teachers did not approve a change in term limits. Therefore, no action is needed.

b. Coronavirus Preparedness

Discussion:

Mr. Gawarecki provided information to the Board from legal counsel. While the corona virus is not an issue here at this time, it is good to think about it because things may not change. Emergency school board meetings are allowed without regard to special time restrictions. Doing a remote Board meeting is also an option if needed. Someone would still need to be present at the physical location and people would need to be able to see and hear each other for the meeting to occur. The easiest way we could accomplish this would be to have one person here at school and then meet remotely with everyone else via Google Hangout. Mr. Ellingson asked how this would work with open meeting laws. Mr. Gawarecki said yes, open meeting laws still apply. The public would be able to attend the meeting. Mr. Ellingson wondered at the wisdom of allowing the public to attend if we are meeting specifically to cut down on person-to-person contact. Is there a way to make the meeting publically viewable without having people actually here? Mr. Gawarecki clarified that we don't necessarily have the means to do that, but more importantly, the way the law is written, the public has to be able to be present for the meeting. Ms. Seeberger reminded the Board that if they do appear remotely, their location will be publicized and the public can attend there as well. Therefore, if you appear remotely, you might want to reconsider doing it from your home and perhaps be at a library or other public place..

Mr. Gawarecki addressed potential issues regarding the student trip overseas. He stated that public schools have no statutory authority to require testing of students or quarantining of students. He also reminded the Board to be careful of discriminatory conduct on the basis of ethnicity.

If school had to close, Mr. Gawarecki addressed the idea of proceeding via e-learning. While we don't have the authority to do that in the case of school closure, it is assumed that this is how we would proceed. Mr. Eng asked what if we wanted to close school independent of a State decision. Mr. Gawarecki clarified that it would take a special Board meeting to close the school for a day or two. Mr. Ellingson wondered if there was any trigger or threshold to close the school. Mr. Gawarecki stated that right now flu is the bigger issue. An epidemic could be declared if greater than 5% of the student population were affected, and we haven't reached that threshold with the flu yet. Mr. Langseth asked how that is calculated. Mr. Gawarecki stated that it would have to be documented cases - so a student would be seen by a doctor and provided documentation of their diagnosis. This would then be communicated to the school. Mr. Gawarecki also clarified that the law only provides for e-learning days for inclement weather. There is currently no legal basis to have e-learning if school closed for health issues. Mr. Ellingson noted that it would be nice if we could be more proactive since symptoms don't appear right away. Mr. Gawarecki stated that if we got to the point where we were getting close to that, the Dept of Health would be involved. Mr. Eng noted that it would only take one exposure to close the school. Mr. Gawarecki noted that the media has also heightened concerns and reminded the Board that more people have died from the flu than from the coronavirus. Mr. Ellingson noted that in Europe there is heightened discussion and that as soon as something breaks out in the U.S., the same will be happening here. Mr. Ellingson asked if teachers or staff have any ability to report suspected cases. Mr.

APPROVED

Gawarecki noted that we have a lot of students coming to school with Influenza A and B. All we can do is call parents to come pick their student up. If they don't come, we can call the county with a claim of neglect because they're not picking up their child, but then the child is sitting in the office. Mr. Ellingson noted that it'd be nice to have less disease walking around. Mr. Gawarecki stated we had a case on Friday where the parent couldn't get here till almost 1pm. The student sat here from 10am to 1pm. Ms. Kurkoski noted that many parents are not necessarily free to take time off right away and for many it may not be that easy. Mr. Langseth asked whether there was any action at the State level to change the law to allow e-learning in the case of a pandemic. Mr. Gawarecki said there was, but who knows what will happen. Mr. Schniepp noted that it would be nice if, without reaching that 5%, we could have an e-learning week if we feel like something is going on. Mr. Eng agreed noting it would help the teachers stay healthy too. Mr. Ellingson then asked what MSA was doing as far as cleaning or disinfecting. Mr. Gawarecki stated that the goal was over spring break to have a cleaning company come in and disinfect the entire campus. It will happen over spring break, but no definitive date has been set yet. The campus will be closed for this. Mr. Ellingson wondered whether what they will be using will be safe, noting that he has heard of some people being sensitive to cleaning products. Ms. Kurkoski asked that, as part of the spring cleaning, that they also get at the ventilation. Mr. Gawarecki confirmed that is part of what is on their list. They will be sealing the classrooms and using a fumigation process to hit everything. Mr. Gawarecki will let teachers know once he confirms the dates. Ms. Seeberger asked whether the cleaners could also get the handrails in building B stairwells. She has been trying to wipe them down but they are very dirty. Mr. Eng asked if MSA had enough cleaning supplies, and Mr. Gawarecki noted there was a whole cartful under the stage. Mr. Ellingson wondered about student education on the topic of disease prevention. Mr. Gawarecki noted that that was going to be something to send out when everyone gets back. Mr. Schniepp noted that it probably wouldn't be bad to impress on the students to stay home if they are feeling sick. Mr. Gawarecki stated that MSA has already sent this message. Mr. Ellingson asked if teachers could be asked to be understanding to students who must miss school. He noted that students become worried about getting overwhelmed with work if they miss school, and it's hard to play catch up. How do you encourage them to stay home but at the same time keep them from falling behind? Ms. Kurkoski noted that teachers have websites students can check to at least follow the progress of the class. Then, when they return, they can have a discussion with their teachers about the work and due dates for the work. Mr. Bartz asked Ms. Wong if she heard anything from students about how they were feeling about all the information about influenza and Coronavirus. Ms. Wong said she heard mostly joking about it and that students seem fairly educated about it.

c. Closed Meeting per MN Statute 13D.05 Subdivision 3, Paragraph A to evaluate an individual subject to the Board's Authority.

Discussion:

None.

Motion to close the meeting per MN Statute 13D.05 Subdivision 3, Paragraph A, to evaluate an individual subject to the Board's authority.

Moved by: Noah Langseth Second: Cody Schneipp

Vote: 8-yes 0-no 0-abstain

The motion carries.

APPROVED

The meeting went into closed session at 5:31 p.m.

Ramesh Aki entered the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

The closed portion of the meeting ended and the meeting went back into open session at 7:39 p.m.

5. Dates and Times of Upcoming BOD Workshops and Meetings:

- a. **BOD Workshop, March 6, 2020 at 12:15 p.m. in the Great Hall, Expansion Meeting with Teachers**
- b. **BOD Workshop, March 17, 2020, 5:00 p.m., room 10A.**
- c. **Regularly Scheduled BOD Meeting March 17, 2020, 6:15 p.m. room 10A.**
- d. **Closed Meeting per MN Statute 13D.05 Subd 3, Para A to evaluate an individual subject to the Board's Authority, March 26, 2020, 5:15 p.m., room 10A.**

6. Motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m.

Moved by: Michelle Kurkoski Second: Adam Barz

Vote: 9-yes 0-no 0-abstain

The motion carries.

Submitted and Approved:

Judy Seeberger, Secretary