



MeANS Board of Director Meeting Minutes  
Friday, September 18, 2020  
(approved 10/2/2020)

**Present:** Cheryl Bulmer, Kim Patnode, Sally Beaulieu, Troy Frost (via zoom), Scott Byrd (via zoom), Jesse Wechsler (via zoom), Shannon Webber (via zoom)

**Absent:** Scott Cyrway, Cheryl Mercier, Dana Doran, Tom Edwards, Robin Cyr

**Staff present:** Matt Newberg, Becky Dennison, Solomon Heifets, Tish Carr, Angela Hesketh (GWH), Donna Ferenc McGorty (GWH via zoom), Danni Best

Cheryl Bulmer called the meeting to order at 2:37pm due to technical difficulties. Cheryl B shared that meetings can still be held remotely until the legislature votes to change the executive order. She did learn from the charter commission that the roll call vote has to include the members last names so she will be doing that today.

**Additions/Adjustments to the Agenda:** Cheryl B asked that the CFR funding be moved up on the agenda to the action items section of the agenda after the strategic plan discussion as board approval may be indicated for purchases.

**Public comment to the Agenda Items: None**

**Staff Curriculum Presentation:** Tish Carr, Curriculum Instructor, presents update to board on our focus and re-emphasis on hands on/project based, student centered curriculum focused on areas of forestry, agriculture, and environmental science. Tish and Korah Soll/Rural Aspirations have worked together (thanks to GearUp funds) to provide a structured framework for all teachers to utilize in planning Project Blocks and Intensives thus far. Solomon as an Intensive leader reiterated that this framework provides the structure, organization and definition that allows us to provide a consistent experience for students during Intensives and Project Blocks. First Intensives of the year – Farming, Apples, Maine Landscapes and Environmental Issues were shared, and all Board Members were invited to visit and participate during this time. Matt will be sending the schedule of Intensives and Project Blocks to all Board Members.

**Motion by Kim P to approve consent Agenda, Seconded by Sally B. Roll Call vote:**

**Scott Byrd – Aye**

**Sally Beaulieu - Aye**

**Kim Patnode – Aye**

**Shannon Webber – Aye**

**Jesse Wechsler – Aye**

**Troy Frost – Aye**

**Cheryl Bulmer -Aye**

**Motion Carried**

Strategic Plan discussion – Dave Chase/Consultant joins via zoom. Matt summarizes the charter Commission feedback on the mission statement document: 1) use of the word “inspires” – how do we

measure that? 2) student centered instruction – personalized individualized and does the use of these words imply – special education students? And 3) should read mission and vision – not necessarily values, mission.....

Sally Beaulieu shared that there is an aspirations survey that Gearup has that can be used to measure the inspiration concern that the charter has.

Matt will respond back to Charter Commission that we would like to leave it as submitted with explanations as to why and hope for their approval. If they require wording changes it will have to come back to the board for approval and resubmitted.

Dave Chase commented “Kudos to all who have been participating in the overall strategic planning process – staff, teachers, board members! The plan is well designed and he is impressed.”

Donna F also noted in the Header of the Strategic plan document it notes it was Adopted June 2020. She recommends that this be taken out as it has not been approved and adopted by the Charter Commission and the Board yet. Maybe use the words “Reviewed June 2020”

Cheryl B. suggested two wording changes. On page 20 of the board packet copy of the strategic plan the words “HR committee” be changed to “the Board” and on page 24 of the board packet copy of the strategic plan the word “charter” be taken out as we would like to explore and create partnerships with other schools and not just charter schools.

Next steps will be to come back to the group – identify the yearly work plans, assign people and the tasks that need to be completed – and the Strategic Plan turns in an Action Plan.

Once approved, Matt plans to share the Strategic Plan document with all school personnel on Mondays PD day!

Scott Byrd commented that he enjoyed the process and believes the document has a good amount of detail but is also high level enough.

**Motion made by Kim P to approve the Strategic Plan with 3 changes: Adopted June 2020 (changed to reviewed June 2020), word changes (p 20 p24) – seconded by Jesse W. Roll Call vote:**

**Scott Byrd – Aye**

**Sally Beaulieu - Aye**

**Kim Patnode – Aye**

**Shannon Webber – Aye**

**Jesse Wechsler – Aye**

**Troy Frost – Aye**

**Cheryl Bulmer -Aye**

**Motion Carried**

CRF Funds – Matt and Angela discuss.....the availability of funds in two increments #1, #2 and what purchases will be made. Funds need to be spent and items on site by 12/30. Matt and Angela meeting regularly to plan accordingly for school needs during re-opening/remote. Ideas that have been brought up include purchase of yurts, the barn construction, greenhouse 3 improvements to make learning space, tech for remote days. Question of using money to make up balance of barn construction? Vendors availability has to be taken into consideration as well – items may not be available till after 12/30? Matt and Angela to keep board informed. Jesse cautioned everyone to be careful of projects if they are not COVID related. A question was asked about technology options such as individual lap tops, etc. Matt said the teachers have been asked for ideas and they are on the list.

Board needs to vote to approve the purchase of the portable electronic smart boards that is over \$25,000, and to use reserves to pay for prior to reimbursement. Angela will follow up to get more specifics on the timing for delivery and installation. **Jesse W makes motion to move forward with the Headlight Proposal for the smart boards, Sally B seconds the motion. Roll call vote:**

**Scott Byrd – Aye**  
**Sally Beaulieu - Aye**  
**Kim Patnode – Aye**  
**Shannon Webber – Aye**  
**Jesse Wechsler – Aye**  
**Troy Frost – Aye**  
**Cheryl Bulmer -Aye**

### **Motion Carried**

#### HOS Report/News

- Items for board members to pick up today – school masks, syrup and garlic from the gardens!
- No news on the barn – cost is more than budgeted but looking at supply costs and if those could be adjusted in any manner to lower the overall cost of the project. Robin Cyr has offered to help with this.
- Matt spoke of the school and how we have been successful re-opening, all teachers and staff have been working hard to provide remote and in person curriculum to our students.
- Transportation – We will be receiving our white, passenger buses by end of Sept, currently incurring costs as we are still renting 2 buses from Mosher, and leasing 1 bus, which we can extend into October if needed. We did receive the Boards email votes on the purchase of the vans, which are assisting with daily transportation.

Angela H provides update to the improvements for connectivity in the building, have worked to upgrade the in-building connections which will help with remote learning as well as zoom, remote meetings. For any improvements to our outside connectivity (greenhouses, lawn) there would be an additional cost for that.

HR Committee Verbal Report: Kim P shares there is a meeting on Monday, 3pm to look at the HOS review, and review timeline to get the surveys out on that. Matt will be sharing the Panorama survey, done by Charter Commission, with Kim

Finance Committee Verbal Update: Discussed CRF funding, Audit update – Auditors will be presenting to the Board on 10/23. Angela and Matt are working on organizing expenses per Campus & Threshold, working on having a more detailed report on the expenses.

School Expulsion Hearing – Reviewed recent incident of Sept 10 n which a student was found in possession of drugs on campus and in the school. Hearing date has been set for October 2 @ 3pm at the school. Expulsion policy will be forwarded to the board by Matt.

Strategic Plan – next step is all review the plan with the full board and school personnel, develop goals that will support the school and assign committees that will use the document as a guiding plan that will develop and strengthen the school. Committees may include: Finance, HR, Policies, Marketing..... Plan is to distribute the Plan to all, set up as agenda item in next months meeting and have opportunity for everyone to sign up for specific committees/interest areas.

- Also, discussion on the development & marketing topic - requesting volunteers for this area. Exploring yearly campaign, bridging development and marketing, and building community relationships that will benefit the school.
- Scott B and SP Committee will be meeting to develop work plans for the specific areas. Which include our by-laws and policies being in flux.
- Charter commission will be voting on approving our changes to the Mission Statement at their first meeting in October.

New Board Members – Cheryl will be getting the Board books to all new members and asked that all Board Members use them, replace the old with new documents as approved and to please put the Board Meeting Dates on your calendars. The new documents for board member information, committee membership and Board meeting dates are in the board packet.

Other discussion:

Zoom – some technical difficulties at start but okay, was nice to have members in the building and all board members are encouraged to come to the school for meetings. We will still offer zoom – and this provides a way for the Charter Commission to join the meetings as well. Zoom also allows recording options for meetings.

October 23 Board meeting – encouraging all members to do in person if possible, Auditors will present their findings but Zoom will be offered.

GWH Gala – scheduled for October 17, 2020

Development announcement – Cheryl & Matt sending email for all staff and board support of the school. We would love be able to say on grant applications that we have 100% of our staff and board supporting the school.

Motion to Adjourn meeting by Jesse W, seconded by Kim P

**Roll call vote:**

**Scott Byrd – Aye**

**Sally Beaulieu - Aye**

**Kim Patnode – Aye**

**Shannon Webber – Aye**

**Jesse Wechsler – Aye**

**Troy Frost – Aye**

**Cheryl Bulmer -Aye**

**Motion Carried**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:56p**

Respectfully Submitted:

Danni M Best  
Dean of Students

