

Millennium Charter Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
August 29, 2023

The Board of Directors for Millennium Charter Academy met in regular session on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 5:30 PM. Those directors present were Druery Devore (present), James Crossingham (present), Chris Willingham (present), Adam Delp (present), and Susan Campbell and Ann Jones (remote). Headmaster Paul Rezzo was also present along with Patty Bare and Tia Gwyn (the outgoing and incoming finance directors for MCA). Also in attendance were Mandy Tucker and Jennifer Feeman representing the MCA Athletic Boosters. The MCA AD Nichole Ashburn was in attendance as well. Paul Rezzo provided the invocation followed by Druery Devore leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of Proposed Agenda:** A motion to adopt the proposed agenda was made by James Crossingham and Seconded by Ann Jones. The motion carried and the proposed agenda adopted.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes as submitted from the August BOD meeting was made by Susan Campbell and seconded by Ann Jones. Subject to one correction substituting Mr. Devore in place of Mr. Rezzo as having made a presentation, the minutes were approved as the motion carried.

**Public comment:** None

**Report of Affiliated Organizations:** Mandy Tucker and Jennifer Freeman made a presentation on behalf of the MCA Athletic Boosters

The ladies presented changes they would like to see to the MCA Boosters by-laws.

The MCA BOD will discuss and approve any changes to said by-laws.

Much discussion was had around the issue of funding for the football program as it has always been privately funded and the Athletic Boosters were not involved in the initial conversation when the football program was started.

Chris Willingham initiated a conversation around how enhancing the sports programs / offerings could serve as a way to attract and retain students who might otherwise leave in search of their sport of choice.

James Crossingham suggested approaching the Mt. Airy Youth Foundation in search of sports funding as they recently ended their relationship with Mount Airy City Schools.

Druery Devore noted that the football program is currently a club sport, and as it is being privately funded and not supported by the boosters that its future depended on its popularity and the ability to find funding.

Those conversations cleared up much confusion about the boosters responsibilities with respect to the football program and it was stated that the boosters would be supportive and aid in fundraising if possible.

It was also decided that the MCA Athletic Boosters should be the ones to approach the Mt. Airy Youth Foundation about help in funding MCA sports programs.

The MCA Boosters have been operating under the assumption that they should distribute funds raised for sports programs equally amongst those programs. Chris and Druery encouraged them to be nimble and flexible in their funding decisions, working with the ebb and flow of popularity and demands within each program.

The eligibility of students for participation in sports programs post transfer was discussed and the role that MCA should play in that scenario.

All present discussed the pros and cons of membership in the NCHSAA. It was decided going forward that it might be a good idea to have some sports participate as members and others to leave the NCHSAA depending on the circumstances. This could be re-evaluated on a year to year and sport by sport basis.

Adam Delp and Nichol Ashburn discussed the fact that the MCA Boosters did not start the year with as much money as they thought should have been in the boosters funds.

It was noted that the boosters were under the impression that MCA busses and booster funds were not to be used for club sports. None in attendance could testify to the provenance of that understanding.

#### Headmasters Report:

Paul Rezzo informed the BOD that the year was off to a great start. Enrollment is good and so far, is exceeding budgeted projections. 2023-2024 MCA budget was based on 640 students and we currently have 660 students.

Mr. Rezzo then recommended hiring the following,

1: Krista Culpepper as K-12 art teacher. A motion to hire was made by Chris Willingham and seconded by Adam Delp. The motion carried.

2: Fara Carson as part time upper school EC teacher. A motion to hire was made by Adam Delp and seconded by Chris Willingham. The motion carried.

3: CBS therapy to provide Speech Language Pathology services. A motion to hire was made by Chris Willingham and seconded by Adam Delp. The motion carried.

Mr. Rezzo then talked the board through the rest of the items in his report spending extra time on discussing the success of this year's professional development, the college and career counseling curriculum, the after-school academy and SB 49 also known as the "Parents Bill of Rights".

NC HB 219 was discussed and its effects and the opportunities that it would create. It would allow NC charter schools to accept out of state students and charge tuition to those students of up to 100% of state and local funds. There could be some students in VA that would be interested in making the switch to MCA as it offers a great education and some of those students could enjoy a far shorter commute to school.

Treasurers Report: Chris Willingham

Mr. Willingham informed the BOD that he had received the Formal Reconciliation of last years P&L. The formal reconciliation is based on the actual revenues and expenditures of funds at the end of the year and not budgetary projections. MCA took in \$545,000 more than initially anticipated.

A motion to approve and accept the Formal Reconciliation was made by Adam Delp and Seconded by James Crossingham. The motion carried.

Chris noted that the fact that MCA budgeted for 640 students and currently has 660 students enrolled, will result in \$160,000 more in revenues than expected for this year. This of course is subject to change as North Carolina has not passed a budget yet and the budget that ultimately passes may alter funding or expenses. Aside from the changes that could come with a new budget, additional expenses including bus repair (\$10K), free and reduced lunch expenses (\$20K), and the increase in teacher pay expense based on the state standard yearly increase (\$70K), will eat up \$100K of that \$160K of extra revenue from the additional enrollment. Also, insurance costs will be up this year and that will consume the remaining excess revenue brought by the extra enrollment.

Chris went on to remind the board that typically the budget will include funding that pays for the teacher raises and increased insurance costs described above, negating the net impact of those items on our budget.

Report of Standing Committees:

Board Development: Paul Rezzo updated the BOD on board development efforts and progress.

Druery Devore reported that headmaster emeritus Kirby McCrary's retirement party was a success.

#### New Business:

MCA Athletic Director Nichole Ashburn addressed the board. She was happy to report that she loves her multiple roles at MCA and working with the kids. As AD she wants to start with a clean slate and new perspective on things. She also wanted some insight from the board as it relates to her role in raising money for the athletic programs. Mrs. Ashburn reported that not having sufficient athletic fields make scheduling practices for the various sports teams very challenging. She also offered her perspectives on how our student athletes were to be just that, students first, and then athletes and that teaching life lessons and having them grow as people was more important than winning. A sentiment that was shared by all. That being said, she is working hard to promote athletics in the school in the hopes of increasing participation.

James Crossingham updated the board on the issue of finding "new" buses with which to replace MCA's aging fleet. He proposed that the school purchase older, cheaper to maintain buses and refurbish them. James and Scotty Bullins had been to look at some buses that Surry County Schools were thinking about selling and recommended that they be purchased when they were offered on an online auction website. A motion was made by Druery Devore and seconded by Chris Willingham to authorize James to spend up to \$20,000 for the purchase of these buses. The motion carried. He hoped to be able to buy all five of the buses that were to be offered by Surry County Schools with those funds.

The meeting was then adjourned following a motion by Druery Devore and seconded by James Crossingham which carried.

Submitted by:

James Crossingham