**Board of Directors Board Meeting**

**North Metro Flex Academy**

2350 Helen Street

North St. Paul, MN 55109

February 21st, 2024

Board Meeting 4:00 PM



**Minutes**

***Our mission*** *is to prepare a diverse community of elementary and middle school students to be successful in high school and in their chosen vocation through a flexible, individualized learning experience that develops analytical, compassionate, disciplined and self-directed learners.*

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 4:03

* Board Members Present: Mike Leary, Joe Palkowitsch, Dave Isaacson, Kyle Johnson
* Board Members Absent:
* Ex-Officio: Debbie Kranz
* Public Present: Jesse Schonfeld, Student Council members, Nikiya Cogwell
* NEO Representative:
* Finance Representative:

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Conflict of Interest Declaration**

After reading the agenda, do any Board members have any real or perceived conflict of interest with any agenda item?

Johnson: no

Isaacson: no

Palkowitsch: no

Leary: no

**Public Comment**

**Finance**

* An amount of $250,000 has been allocated to a Certificate of Deposit Account Registry (CDAR) with the bank, accruing interest at a rate of 4.9%. This arrangement is subject to a quarterly review.

**A motion was made by Mike Leary to move $250,000 into a CDAR with a 4.9% interest rate.**

**Second: Isaacson**

Johnson: aye

Isaacson: aye

Palkowitsch: aye

Leary: aye

Cogwell: aye

**Motion passed.**

**Consent Agenda**

* Acceptance of January Board Meeting Minutes
* Approve Annual Meeting Minutes
* Acceptance of January Finance Report

**A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Joe Palkowitsch.**

**Second: Kyle Johnson**

Johnson: aye

Isaacson: aye

Palkowitsch: aye

Leary: aye

Motion passed.

**Board Training Update**

* Board Training Priorities based upon Appendix C from the Board Development Plan
* <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CgTmoclYeeb5M0WeuK1bNXhfwntoJ8M8QaAH8Xo5Npg/edit?usp=share_link>
* NEO Module Training Update
* [New Laws for 202](https://mncharterschools.org/media/articles-detail.php?ID=9869)4

**Policy Committee Update**

* [Timeline for policies to update](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QBV_gPwDq-De7rN1ru-mt1nWSau1M6cLtCWxVHe8f0I/edit?usp=sharing)
* Approve any updated policies

**NEO Points of Business**

**School Principal Report**

* MACS Update
* Parent Survey Update
* Fall-Winter assessment results
* We are going to use NWEA as a way to show academic progress with students.

[**Performance Framework**](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Aal7L2i488mLnVEW9wq7EcdLTRpjPFh3Uh7_WKW7rgA/edit#gid=2110722138)

**Board Calendar Items**

* Gambling License Renewal
* Hanover Insurance Renewal
* Approve School Calendar 24-25
* This will be tabled for next month’s meeting.
* CST Contract Renewal

**A motion was made to approve the CST Contract Renewal by Dave Isaacson.**

**Second: Kyle Johnson**

Johnson: no

Isaacson: no

Palkowitsch: no

Leary: no

Cogwell: aye

**Motion passed.**

**Old Business**

* Tech Budget Discussion with Jesse

**A motion was made by Joe Palkowitsch to conditionally approve of any tech contract contingent upon our schools authorization with NEO.**

**Second: Kyle Johnson**

Johnson: aye

Isaacson: aye

Palkowitsch: aye

Leary: aye

**Motion passed.**

**New Business**

* Approval of New Board Member

**A motion was made to approve Nikiya Cogwell as a school board member by Dave Isaacson.**

**Second: Mike Leary**

Johnson: aye

Isaacson: aye

Palkowitsch: aye

Leary: aye

**Motion passed.**

* Negotiating the Building Lease Update from Dave
* The termination of our current lease is slated for 2025, whereas our authorization extends until 2026. It is imperative that we resolve this discrepancy by the conclusion of the current academic year. In pursuit of a mutually beneficial agreement, David engaged in discussions with Gary, the proprietor of the building, emphasizing the importance of equity in the renegotiated lease terms. Meanwhile, Deborah has been exploring more cost-effective alternatives for our institution, though the available spaces were found to be inadequate in size. Gary has provisionally consented to a reduction in Common Area Maintenance (CAM) fees and has expressed willingness to assume a portion of the real estate expenses, contingent upon the fiscal year
* Discuss status of playground equipment and grounds
* Dave looked at some proposals on fixing the grounds. Some of the proposals were outlandish and outside of our budget.
* Nurse Contract Renewal

A motion was made to approve the Nurse Contract Renewal by Joe Palkowitsch.

**Second: Johnson**

Johnson: aye

Isaacson: aye

Palkowitsch: aye

Leary: aye

Cogwell: aye

**Motion passed.**

* Student Council Presentation on Food and Uniforms
* The Student Council articulated their stance advocating for the abolition of the school uniform policy. Additionally, they addressed concerns regarding the quality of the cafeteria food and recommended renegotiating the vendor contract to secure higher quality food options.

**Motion passed.**

* Approve Lacey Hastings’ resignation

**A motion was made to accept Lacey Hasting’s resignation by Kyle Johnson.**

**Second: Isaacson**

Johnson: aye

Isaacson: aye

Palkowitsch: aye

Leary: aye

Cogwell: aye

**Motion passed.**

* Approve Barbara Marchetti contract
* Barb has been appointed to succeed the outgoing Special Education teacher, who has accepted a position elsewhere.

**A motion was made to accept Barb Marchetti as a Special Education Teacher by Kyle Johnson.**

**Second: Isaacson**

Johnson: aye

Isaacson: aye

Palkowitsch: aye

Leary: aye

Cogwell: aye

**Motion passed.**

* Approve $10,000 request for field trips

**A motion was made by Mike Leary to approve up to $10,000 earmarked for transportation but uses other funding priorities first.**

**Second:Kyle Johnson**

Johnson: aye

Isaacson: aye

Palkowitsch: aye

Leary: aye

Cogwell: aye

**Motion passed.**

**Adjourn**

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 by Joe Palkowitsch**

**Second: Isaacson**

Johnson: aye

Isaacson: aye

Palkowitsch: aye

Leary: aye

Cogwell: aye

**Motion passed.**

**Next Board Meeting: March 27th, 2024**