

Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy
Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes

Date: May 10, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy
730 W. Maple Street, Lansing, Michigan 48906

I. Meeting Called to Order at 6:02 p.m. by Robert Macomber.

II. Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Nicholas Benavides (East Lansing, MI)	X	
Nettavia Curry (Delta Township, MI)		X
Leigha Faith (Dansville, MI)	X	
Robert Macomber (Lansing, MI)	X	
Versey Williams (Lansing, MI)	X	

Others Present:

CS Partners: Lauri McCollum, Lisa Weir

Mid-Michigan Leadership Staff: Linda Brown, Rebekah Cathy, Lacey James

CMU Representative: Joseph Thienes

III. Public Comment (*agenda items only*)

- None

IV. Approval of Agenda

- **Motion by Leigha Faith, seconded by Versey Williams to approve the agenda. Unanimously carried by those present.**

V. Approval of Minutes

a. April 12, 2021 Meeting

Dr. Williams has concerns about CS Partners making changes to MMLA without fully understanding the culture and history of the school. To reflect that feeling a sentence under the Administrator's report was updated, it now reads: (t)he Board would like the growth to be intentional and to celebrate accomplishments without changing too fast, this includes any interventions from CS Partners.

- **Motion by Leigha Faith seconded by Nicholas Benavides to approve the April 12th Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Unanimously carried by those present.**

VI. Board Correspondence

- None
- VII. CS Partners Report

Dr. Weir reviewed the CS Partners report. The RFP for roof replacement went out and two vendors bid on the project. Dr. Weir and Mr. James have a meeting scheduled tomorrow with Geoff Yelen to discuss funding the project. Dr. Weir suggested that a Building Committee be formed to align building project needs with Mission and Vision of the school while taking into consideration the budget before capital outlays or big expenditures are presented to the Board.

Dr. Weir also noted that CS Partners will be holding Aspiring Leaders Academy. She will be asking Mr. James to participate and share his expertise as an instructional leader.

a. Administrator's Report

Mr. James reviewed the School Leaders report. He then reviewed the PowerPoint from the Board packet proposing adding a ninth grade to MMLA. A freshman campus at MMLA will provide excellent opportunity to the community.

The following topics were discussed:

- Continued expansion of grades.
- The recent change in curriculum.
- Current student achievement with the curriculum.
- Plans to staff the ninth grade, current staff endorsements were requested by the Board.
- Social/emotional benefits of a freshman campus.

Joseph Thienes noted that the team at CMU will thoroughly review all aspects of the proposal.

b. Financial Report

Dr. Weir presented the April financials. The final 2020-2021 budget and initial 2021-2022 proposed budgets will be presented at the June board meeting.

VIII. New Business

a. Review and Approval of Extended Continuity of Learning Plan

1. Public Comment

- None

2. Delivery of Instruction

- No change

3. Weekly 2 two-way interactions

Week Ending: Friday, April 2, 2021	90 %
Week Ending: Friday, April 16, 2021	88%
Week Ending: Friday, March 23, 2021	92 %

Week Ending: Friday, March 30, 2021 91%

- **Motion by Versey Williams seconded by Nettavia Curry to approve the Monthly Extended Continuity of Learning Plan resolution. Unanimously carried by those present.**

b. Open Meetings Act Board Policy

CMU will be adding an Electronic Board Meeting Policy to the Charter Contract; therefore, we will not be adding the OMA resolution that was included in the packet to the Board policies. The CMU policy is scheduled to come to the Board in June.

c. 2021-2022 Board Meeting Schedule

The school calendar will be discussed in June.

- **Motion by Nicholas Benavides seconded by Leigha Faith to approve the 2021-2022 Board Meeting schedule resolution. Unanimously carried by those present.**

d. Insurance Review and Approval

Lauri McCollum reviewed the insurance renewal proposal along with the three optional updates: 1. Increase Violent Event Response limit; 2. Commercial Umbrella Coverage changed to \$4m; 3. Increase Cyber Liability Coverage to \$100,000

- **Motion by Leigha Faith seconded by Versey Williams to approve the insurance renewal along with the increase of violent event response limit and decrease of umbrella coverage. Unanimously carried by those present.**

IX. Old Business

a. Discussion of Contract Amendment Request for 2021-2022

1. Facilities Update
2. Grade Configuration
3. Enrollment Limits

The following topics were discussed:

- 8th grade parental support for 9th grade enrollment
- Cost and availability of qualified high school teachers
- Do the ESSER funds need to be spent this year
 - Other ESSER funding proposed projects include, upgrade HVAC, upgrade flooring
 - ESSER funds could also be used to enhance virtual learning and enhance academics
 - ESSER funding should be used to make a positive influence on the students. The needs of the school should be aligned with all funding opportunities.
- Cost of the modular over two years

A Board member was concerned about all of the questions coming from the Board

regarding the addition of a ninth grade. She felt that, MMLA has spent a lot of money on ESP providers over the years as well as other budget items, she felt that we should put the money toward the students. Mr. James and his team have turned this school around and enrollment is higher than it has ever been. We should keep the money in the area, uplift the community and address the needs of the whole child. She felt that the Board should support the addition of the ninth grade.

The Board was not questioning the ninth grade proposal, they are questioning whether this is the appropriate time to add a ninth grade. Some members of the Board would like to see end of the year data to assess the learning progress of the new curriculum.

The Board President reminded the Board that this resolution is requesting approval from CMU to add the ninth grade, the Board does not have to follow through on the request after additional data is obtained.

- **Motion by Versey Williams seconded by Rob Macomber to approve the contract amendment request to add the 9th grade, update age and grade span, and update facilities description. Unanimously carried by those present.**

Nick Benavides will be the Board representative on the Building Committee.

X. Authorizer Report

Joe Thienes commented that the Board has a great discussion tonight.

XI. Extended Public Comment (non-agenda items)

None

Our Next Board Meeting is June 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

XII. Adjournment:

- **Motion by Versey Williams seconded by Nick Benavides that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Unanimously carried by those present.**

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

Lauri McCollum - Covid
Recording Secretary

May 20, 2021
Date

Approved by the Board of Directors at its June 14th meeting.

Nicholas Benavides
Nicholas Benavides (Jun 15, 2021 19:46 EDT)
Board Secretary

Jun 15, 2021
Date

Minutes are available at 730 West Maple Street, Lansing, Michigan 48906. This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Directors in public for the purpose of conducting the Academy's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the agenda.