

The Soulard School
Board of Directors Meeting
11/19/20 held via Zoom
Soulard School

Board members present: Jay DeLong (President), Jamie Boyer, Steve Groves, Meghan Grubb, Jim Holloran, Basiyr Rodney

Board members absent: none

Staff: Sarah Christman, Eleanor White, Shannon Spradling

Guest: Christy Moreno, MCPSA

Observers: 3 parent or staff observers

Notes: Eleanor

1. Welcome, Intros & Opening Comments
2. Review and approve October meeting notes - approved
3. Guest speaker: Christy Moreno from Missouri Public Charter School Association
 - a. Intros
 - b. Emergency funding for charters passed last week - able to use prior year Weighted Daily Average Attendance (WADA) to calculate attendance
 - i. DESE will calculate this year and prior year and give schools the higher number
 - ii. MCPSA received 70 letters from parents, teachers and board members to support
 - c. Funding equity bill
 - i. Due to details of law and use of antiquated interest rates, etc. ("glitch"), charters receive about \$800 less per student than public schools do
 - ii. Tried to fix last year, but covid got in the way
 - iii. Holding parent info sessions and trying to build advocacy - every Tuesday
 - iv. Trying to reach out to more people - can you gather a group of 5+ people? Doug and Christy will talk to them.
 - d. Media focuses on negative aspects of charters
 - i. Auditor indicates boards need more training and oversight (especially financial)
 1. Expect to see legislative efforts to increase charter board training
 2. MCPSA asking boards to avoid additional oversight by state by voluntarily committing to providing good training and oversight of attendance and finances
 - a. Can provide recommended language
4. Financial updates - Shannon/Sarah
 - a. Review finance dashboard
 - b. Highlights - conservative approach at start of year was good - we have surpassed what we budgeted, as state funding has trended upward

- i. Change in administration at federal level could help economy and open up possibility of federal support to states
 - ii. Overall we are in a good place - revisit in January/February
 - c. Ongoing possible expenses
 - i. Tech repairs for remote learners
 - ii. Haley has left as Assistant Principal/special education coordinator - we are needing to contract w/ Miriam Learning Services for extra support in transition
 - d. Move to accept monthly financials - approved unanimously
- 5. School updates - Sarah
 - a. Special education coordinator hire
 - i. Have connected with candidate that is highly experienced and is hoping to work with us part-time this year, and closer to full-time the following year
 - ii. Goals - build capacity within current special education staff and build team
 - iii. Plan - have Miriam consultant continue to wrap up immediate needs of students in-process, and move forward with strong hand-off to new candidate. May also add another part-time person to provide additional sped oversight/support
 - iv. Will check in next meeting to see how transition is going and if more support is needed.
 - b. Reopening
 - i. K-2 is back in the building on staggered schedule (M/W or T/Th)
 - 1. Teachers really worked hard to make it happen
 - a. Including PE, studio art, strings and STEAM
 - 2. Resource center for select 3-4th graders also ongoing
 - 3. Students really enjoying being with each other
 - 4. 77% of kids are in-building hybrid, 23% fully online
 - c. Week after Thanksgiving
 - i. Proposing to shift to 100% virtual for the week of 11/30
 - ii. Provides days after holiday for families to identify symptoms
 - iii. Board votes in support of this plan - approved unanimously
- 6. Board Roles and Growth
 - a. Steve and Basiyr have participated in board training recently
 - i. Schedule time to share info w/ board members - work out time and schedule outside
- 7. SEC fundraising update - Clovers & Stars raised \$110,000
- 8. Adjournment