

The Soulard School
Board of Directors Meeting
9/17/20 held via Zoom
Soulard School

TSS Members Present: Jay DeLong, Jamie Boyer, Steve Groves (by phone), Jim Holloran
TSS Members Absent: Basiyr Rodney

Staff Present: Sarah, Eleanor, Haley, Shenika, Shannon
UMSL: Bill Mendelsohn

Notes: Eleanor

1. Welcome, Intros & Opening Comments
2. Proposed new board member - Meghan Grubb
 - a. TSS parent in her 3rd year at the school
 - b. Active on Diversity & Inclusion Committee
 - c. Observing this meeting
3. Review and approve August meeting minutes - approved unanimously
4. Individuals w/ Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates and Special Education services overview - Haley
 - a. Mandated for all public schools
 - b. Provide meaningful education for all students
 - c. Special education services can be academic or behavioral or learning services
 - i. Plus related services, including occupational therapy, speech therapy, etc.
 - d. Have to participate in Child Find Activities including identifying students through screenings for special needs
 - e. 30-60-30 process - 30 days to review data, 60 days to create IEP, 30 days to implement services.
 - f. Students w/ IEPs have special considerations in discipline (suspensions/expulsions)
 - g. A lot of safeguards in place to guarantee transparency for parents/students
 - h. Local Compliance Plan must be approved by board by October
 - i. Review highlights
 - ii. Under covid closures/distance learning in spring 2020, continued to serve students through distance learning - zoom services, support/resources for parents
 - iii. This fall, new Form G specifies how students w/ IEPs are being served during distance learning
 - iv. Currently serving 10 students with IEPs
 1. 5 students 100% virtual at this time, 5 students in Resource Center
 2. 8 students returning, 2 students new
 3. 2 active referrals - students who we are currently evaluating
 4. Of 10 IEP students:

- a. 7 receive speech services
 - b. 3 receive OT
 - c. 1 receives counseling (via IEP, others are receiving outside IEP process)
 - d. 7 students receiving specialized instruction
 - e. 2 students receiving behavioral intervention services
 - v. Staff -
 - 1. Continuing to contract w/ Miriam Learning Services
 - 2. Have on staff occupational therapist, part-time
 - 3. Have on staff counselor/social worker, full-time thanks to grant funding
 - 4. Have on staff 2 Special education teachers - Haley, plus a second part-time
 - 5. Have on staff 1 Paraprofessional
 - 6. Contract for school psychologist/assessment
 - vi. Discussion -
 - 1. How are we adapting during distance learning?
 - a. Are continuing to consider how to serve them all - mostly seems like tech issues at this point. May adapt plans to meet kids' needs (i.e. shortening Zoom sessions).
 - 2. Haley - this may not be sustainable - Form G is really meant for 1 semester at most. Will need to develop new processes if school/family opting for distance learning after winter break.
 - 3. Timelines are difficult under these circumstances
 - 4. Are facing unexpected expenses with hiring support for new student's needs
 - 5. Can anticipate increase in teacher/parent requests for special education evaluation this fall
 - a. Have to consider whether they were making progress prior to covid closures?
 - 6. Are there supports and meetings for Haley and other charter special education people?
 - a. Yes, though UMSL and DESE
 - vii. Priorities for fall
 - 1. Additional staffing at Resource Center to ensure IEPs are met and students are progressing
 - 2. Emphasizing for teachers Response to Intervention (RTI) and best practices for virtual learning to avoid over-referring to special education
 - a. All elementary staff receiving training through UMSL on virtual learning practices
 - 3. Encourage hiring of staff with dual certification in elementary and special education or supporting current staff in receiving certification.
 - viii. Haley recommends board adopts Local Compliance Plan as provided to the board - approved unanimously.
- 5. Student assessment - Shenika
 - a. Will be using Renaissance STAR assessment

- i. Short, computer-based, adaptive tests
 - ii. In reading, math, early literacy
 - iii. Nationally normed, can predict performance on MAP test in spring
 - iv. Give 3 times during the year - start, middle, end
 - v. Teachers can make custom tests that they can use to assess students on their own topics
 - vi. Teachers have received several professional development sessions on this with our Renaissance trainer, and will do another check in with teachers tomorrow
 - vii. Will begin assessing next week
 - viii. Shenika will communicate w/ parents about the process
 - ix. Meets standard for dyslexia screening as well
 - x. Quick and easy - should be able to give each section in 20 minutes
 - xi. Does this test take the place of MAP? Would we have it only this year, or ongoing?
 - 1. This is a benchmark test, so different from the MAP - provides data on individual kids' skills/progress, vs. MAP which is only once a year and more about the school's overall performance
- 6. Request amendment to charter
 - a. Approving Sarah to formally ask UMSL to amend charter to include our virtual learning plan
 - b. Motion approved unanimously
- 7. Metrix to return to in-person learning
 - a. Links to Harvard article from MCPSA and source that is analyzing state/county data to provide red/orange/yellow/green levels
 - b. Attempting to align city charters so that all are looking at the same data
 - c. Other schools are considering whether to return for second quarter
 - i. We are on trimesters, so have extra time to decide/plan
 - d. By next Board meeting, will need to have clear data for school and region
 - i. Need special session?
 - ii. Need community meeting? Staff check in
 - iii. Propose staff check in on 10/7/20 - Jay and Jim to join meeting
 - iv. Should reopening be based on calendar, or on hitting certain targets for local data?
 - v. Vote on our criteria for reopening at next board meeting
- 8. Financials
 - a. Review financials
 - b. Outlook good so far, but if state makes further cuts, we will need to revise budget
 - c. Jay has reviewed check register and recommends approval - approved unanimously
 - d. Cash flow projection - now includes line for SEC donations to TSS
 - i. Recommendation from UMSL so more clear about role SEC plays in school's financials
 - e. Ending cash balance - required to have 3%, but UMSL recommending increase to 10% gradually over next few years.
- 9. Adjournment