



MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2010
Frederick Campus

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Frederick Campus
Established 1868

Columbia Campus
Established 1973



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MEMBERS PRESENT: Benjamin Bahan, Ph.D., Cynthia Neese-Bailes, Ph.D., Charles Poyer, Jr., William J. Bowman, Laurie Corcoran, John Ertel, Ph.D., Ernest Hairston, Roslyn Hannibal-Booker, Sandra N. Harriman, Angela McCaskill, Ph.D., Barbara Raimondo, Esq., Heather Zeolla

MEMBERS ABSENT: Connie Briscoe-Woodruff, Robin Kittleman, E. Bernard Palmer, Khadijat Rashid, Ph.D.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL: Demetria Tobias, Esq.

INTERPRETERS: Brenda Kelly Frey, Bobbie Quinn

President Benjamin Bahan, Ph.D. called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

President's Report: President Benjamin Bahan, Ph.D. stated that MSD will be going through the Accreditation process and that priorities should be set for what the school should focus on. MSD says that it is bilingual with an English Curriculum taken from the Frederick County Public Schools and an American Sign Language (ASL) Curriculum taken from Gallaudet. Students arriving to Gallaudet from High School need to be prepared. MSD needs to develop ASL proficiency in Elementary, Middle, and High School. In order to achieve the goals for the future a Working Group/Task Force for K-12 has been started. President Bahan stated that we will be the trail blazers. Students would videotape their essay/paper which would allow them the opportunity to think through and organize their thoughts.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: William Bowman passed out a report and explained that it was a carryover from the last report handed out in February with some increases in the accounting. The checking account remains steady and the investments managed by the Maryland School for the Deaf Foundation (MSDF) have been shifted in the last couple of years. MSDF made another recent transaction and closed the second line with RBC and spread it over several accounts with First United Trust. Mr. Bowman stated that he was hopeful that the MSDF representative would be available to give a short presentation in the fall.

Mr. Bowman asked if anyone had questions from the last Board meeting in which he was not in attendance that he could answer now. The question was asked what does the Board do with the money in the Board of Trustees account? Mr. Bowman explained that the money is used to support the school's programs and that the Board really does not use a lot of the money.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent James E. Tucker reported that MSD was approaching the end of the school year. Mr. Tucker asked the Board for a 1 day waiver due to the snow this past winter. Mr. Tucker explained that MSD missed 6 days of school due to the snow and that MSD plans to make up 5 of those missed days. Mr. Tucker stated that there was a Personnel Handbook and Parent-Student Handbook ready for the Board's review/approval and that the Staffing Plan also needed to be approved by the Board. Mr. Tucker also stated that the Out-of-State Tuition fees needed the approval of the Board and that MSD currently has 2 out-of-state students and is expecting 1 more.

The budget for next year is a challenge. MSD will again receive flat funding from the State, however the funds received from the Federal Government will go down. Mr. Tucker explained that he and his staff have reviewed and looked at everything because they don't want to cut programs or services. The gap in the budget will mainly be closed by attrition.

The new cafeteria building is going up quickly and the target opening is February of 2011.

The Accreditation Committee has already set up teams. The new school year will be our self-study year and we will be applying for accreditation through both CEASD and MSA so it will be a dual accreditation.

The Academic Bowl Team beat 79 other teams to win the National Academic Bowl Championship.

Graduation is next month and State Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer will be our guest speaker.

A **MOTION** was made to approve the Agenda – **SECONDED - PASSED.**

Board member Barbara Raimondo, Esq. recommended that the word "personnel" be corrected as it is misspelled in the current version of the February 2010 meeting minutes in the President's Report Section.

A **MOTION** was made to approve the minutes from the February 2010 meeting with the correction discussed – **SECONDED - PASSED.**

Executive Committee: No report.

Education Committee: No report but the Education Committee did meet to review the Parent-Student handbook.

FM/FM Committee: The FM/FM committee has not had a meeting. The MSD Foundation had an audit and the Board is responsible for a portion of the fees associated with the audit. Mr. Bowman will check with the Foundation to find out exactly what the Board's portion of the expense is.

Personnel Committee: The Personnel Committee met and discussed the Superintendent's 360 degree Evaluation. The evaluation of the Superintendent will be discussed under New Business.

Student Life Committee: No report.

Trusteeship Committee: There are 4 names that have been nominated for Board membership consideration. Two names were nominated by other board members and 2 names were self-nominated. Ms. Harriman supplied the board members with a hand-out and reminded the Board that the Trusteeship Committee has openings if anyone is interested in joining the committee.

The Trusteeship Committee was asked to bring a recommendation to the Board regarding a student member on the Board. The Trusteeship Committee's recommendation is that it would be best not to because there are too many issues.

New Business: A **MOTION** was made to approve the Out-of-State Tuition – **SECONDED-PASSED**.

A **MOTION** was made to approve the 1 Snow Day Waiver Request-**SECONDED** but then a Board member expressed opposition to the 1 Snow Day Waiver. A vote was held and the 1 Snow Day Waiver request was **PASSED**.

A **MOTION** was made to approve the Employee Handbook changes – **SECONDED - PASSED**.

A **MOTION** was made to approve the 2010-2011 Parent-Student Handbook – **SECONDED – PASSED**.

A **MOTION** was made to approve the Staffing Plan – **SECONDED – PASSED**.

A **MOTION** was made to conduct a 360 degree evaluation for the Superintendent – **SECONDED-PASSED**.

A **MOTION** was made to have the Board of Trustees pay for the 360 degree evaluation-**SECONDED-PASSED**.

An Accreditation Information Update was presented by Marcia Virts: Ms. Virts provided the Board with an overview of the Accreditation process by providing some background information and the current accreditation status of MSD.

The Board of Trustees selected the following dates to hold Board Meetings for the 2010-2011 School Year:

September 10, 2010 at Columbia Campus
November 19, 2010 at Frederick Campus
February 11, 2011 at Columbia Campus
May 20, 2011 at Frederick Campus

An Update on Measuring Reading Comprehension was presented by Chad Baker: Mr. Baker presented a power point presentation that provided an overview of the specific assessment tool used to measure the academic progress of MSD students, along with graphs depicting the collected data.

Recognition of the Academic Bowl Team: The members' of the Academic Bowl Team, along with one of their coaches, were introduced to the Board members and were then recognized by the Board for their recent national victory. President Bahan presented each member of the team with a book. Board member Barbara Raimondo really applauded the efforts of the coaches, commenting on how hard the coaches worked to prepare the students for the Academic Bowl.

Open Forum: One person signed up for Open Forum. A MSD staff member spoke to the Board regarding her contract for the upcoming school year. President Bahan thanked the staff member and said that he would ask the Personnel Committee to review her concerns.

Recognition of David Severn: David Severn was recognized for his years of service on the MSD Board. President Bahan presented Mr. Severn with a gift from the Board. Mr. Severn thanked the Board and stated that it had been an honor for him and that he was grateful to have had the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Naming Committee nomination for the new Elementary Building was presented by Chad Baker: Mr. Baker explained that the name of Kent-McCanner received a vote of 50% of the responses that were submitted. Therefore it is the recommendation of the Naming Committee that the name Kent-McCanner be moved from the old elementary building to the new elementary building. Mr. Baker explained that the naming committee made every effort to reach out to the Deaf community but unfortunately not a lot of responses were submitted.

A **MOTION** was made to accept the Naming Committees recommendation to give the new elementary building the name of Kent-McCanner – **SECONDED – PASSED**. It was then discussed that final approval would need to be obtained from the Board of Public Works.

Mr. Tucker requested permission from the Board to present the Baker Building and the Steiner Building officially to the Board of Public Works. The Board agreed with this request.

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn at 1:55 p.m. – **SECONDED – PASSED.**