

James Madison Charter Academy
MINUTES of the Board of Directors
(28 July 2008)

- Call to Order** Mrs. McNelly, Board of Director's President, called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM
- Pledge of Allegiance** Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call** Board of Directors members present:
Mr. Lawrence Marcus, Mrs. Kathy McNelly and Mr. Donald Staton
Absent: Mrs. Lucy Stewart and Mrs. Vernell Murphy
Other Personnel Present:
Mrs. Donna Smith (Business manager)
Mrs. Anne Shearer-Shineman (Principal)
- Approval Of Minutes** Changed to read that Mr. Staton was present.
Approved/accepted as changed
- Committee Reports** Principal:
Teachers started today, conducting training and working classes all week; students start on Monday, gave teachers the student lists so the teachers can start calling tomorrow; have two district administration meetings in the next week for beginning of the year information and new policies; setting up a meeting with Mr. Oroyo? To go over all accounting and budget issues; CSAP scores cannot be revealed at this time (tomorrow can be);
Mrs. McNelly – We did host the growth module training; Trisha Bowmeister from CLCS, we had 12-15 people here from various local charter schools, we received information about the new rating graphs/accountability for charter schools, has a lot more information available to the administration, not the public
Dr. S – They are going to be looking at growth over time, rather than just flat scores. What they want to see is the school and district improving over time.
Mrs. McNelly - Can also be used to predict how a student will score and to show how to get a student to a certain score, many places will use the scores during parent/teacher conf.
Dr. S – Will not be available this year, but probably will inform parents in later years. Is a score, not a grade, and should be higher every year.
Mrs. McNelly – Please talk about back to school night
Dr. S – It will happen about like we have done in previous years. Parents and kids will bring in supplies, and meet with teachers, that will happen for about 45-minutes or so, then everyone will meet in the gym, introduce

the board and staff, the PTO will talk, discuss car pool and some of the basics.

Mr. Marcus – What about school numbers for this year?

Dr. S – we have 6 additional students seeking information for registration today, so our numbers now are 133 for grades 1-8, plus on eon the wait lists. We have 39 kinder students, so that accounts for 18½ students, so we are right on with our predictions from last year.

PTO report:

Mrs. Marcus – here is a list of PTO events for this year, I also added in the fund raisers. Also the school can have a booth at Metcalf park for the parade on 1 Sep. Fundraiser for the skysox is available, fund raiser for Santa's workshop is still available.

Treasures report:

Mrs. Smith – Copies of the district report, not correct due to difference in way accounts are handled. Working with district to get this fixed. We know the expenditures are correct. I am asking the board to ratify the expenditures, not the entire month's budget

Mr. Marcus – Make a motion to ratify the expenditures of June, 2008 (\$75,704.62) as contained in the report.

Mrs. McNally second. All aye. Passed

Mr. Marcus – Make a motion to table the encumbrance and balance part of the budget report until next months meeting.

Mrs. McNally second. All Aye. Passed

Old Business

Weeds and grounds maintenance:

Mr. Marcus – the PTO has already spent \$1000 on getting the weeds sprayed and pulled, and is not willing to pay anymore.

Mrs. Marcus – Not exactly, but we want the board to adopt a more proactive stance and not wait so long to get the weeds taken care of.

Mrs. Smith – has made calls to the county to get the weeds on the outside of the school grounds taken care of. We are on the list, but may be awhile before we get there. Health issues, wildlife etc make this a necessity.

Mrs. McNally – the thought is to allow the BAAC to take this over

Dr S – the BAAC is already working some short and long range plans about this, the BAAC can do some legwork on this.

Mr. Marcus – The bottom line is this is going to come down to the board approving money for weed control

Mr. Smith – Parents used to do this, perhaps we can put out some volunteer hours for doing some weed control maintenance.

Dr. S – Can approve some funds to pay for some weed control up to a certain amount.

Will receive an update from the BAAC and Principal at the next meeting

New Business

New hires:

Dr. S recommends approval of new employee hire (as discussed in closed session)

Mr. Staton makes motion to approve hire of new employee

Mr. Marcus second. All Aye. Approved

New insurance plan:

Mrs. Smith – described new plans, will cost employees less money.

Mr. Staton – Makes a motion to accept the new package insurance

Mrs. McNally second. All aye. Passed

New insurance benefit rate for staff:

Dr. S – recommends approval of raising the insurance rate the school pays from \$200 to \$225 dollars. Is already in the budget, and possibly could be raised to \$250 at a later date.

Mrs. McNally – Makes a motion to approve the new insurance rate as stated

Mr. Marcus second. All aye. Passed

Lunch Bunch issues:

Mrs. Kinda Lendberg– Ran it last year, parents loved it, has it ready to go for this year, the only issue is check bounces and tracing to back to parents. Should start 3rd or 4th week of school. Mrs. Lendberg will head it up, with help from BOD and parents.

Mrs. McNally – Makes motion to continue Friday lunch bunch with Mrs. Lendberg as coordinator/organizer, initial start date to be determined

Mr. Marcus second. All aye. Passed

BOD newsletter:

Mrs. McNally – BOD will produce and distribute a monthly newsletter with “good news” items, will attempt to capture volunteer hours and “celebrate” going over 30 hours, highlight what the classes are doing, stressing importance of parental involvements, attempting to increase parental involvement.

Mrs. McNally – Motion for BOD to produce the monthly newsletter

Mr. Marcus second, all aye. Passed\

Santa’s workshop:

Item received, BOD will take under advisement and discuss doing this fundraiser.

Addition to uniform:

Letter received from Mrs. Deborah Moses regarding addition of white polo to uniform’s allowed.

Mrs. Smith – This is a bad idea simply because the white will get dirty, and become grey, especially with playtime in the yard, and arts/crafts. Also, uniform should be changed at the end of the year.

Mr. Marcus – Uniform will be allowed as an option, not mandatory.

Mrs. McNally – Motion to add a white polo to the JMCA uniform code
Mr. Marcus second. All nay. NOT passed.

Begin kindergarten daycare:

Mrs. McNally – Starting the daycare full time for the kinder kids prior to testing and school start. Empty classroom is available. Mrs Mac ready to start. Cost will be the same as advertised for the kinder kids. Kids must be registered, uniforms are not required. Staff will get the kids for testing on Wed as necessary

Mr. Marcus – make a motion to begin kinder daycare (Monday, 4 Aug) full day prior to testing and school start on Thursday.

Mrs. McNally second. All aye. Passed

Phones for good:

Mr. Marcus – fundraiser involving website to buy new cell phones, and upgrade cell phones. All done online, typically cheaper than using the stores. www.phonesforgood.com. Does not cost the school anything. A link will be placed on the school website.

Mrs. McNally – Make a motion to accept proposal for new fundraising.
Mr. Marcus second. All aye. Passes

Dismissal of Mrs. Lucy Stewart, BOD vice president:

Mr. Marcus – IAW BOD bylaws, paragraph 2.5, state that a board member can miss 2 meetings if approved by the President, 3 or more meetings and the member WILL be dismissed.

Mr. Marcus – Motion to dismiss Mrs. Lucy Stewart for lack of participation IAW Board bylaws.

Mr. Staton second. All aye. Passed

According to bylaws, if a member leaves or is dismissed in the last half of their term, then the board will ask for applications from the public and will choose a new member from those applications. The cutoff date will be 22 Aug, at 5:00pm to submit new applications. The board will choose the new member at the meeting 25 Aug. An application form can be obtained from Mrs. Donna Smith.

Opportunity for public to be heard:

Mrs. Heather Sams: concerned about uniforms. Went to Rosebuds and discovered that the school no longer authorized the 'scorts' from there. Believes that the quality from Rosebuds is much better, and claims was not informed about the uniform policy change. Wants to know when this policy was changed, and why it was implemented.

Mrs. Smith – This policy was changed the year before, but was allowed last year because the uniform policy was not communicated early enough to stop parents from buying this item.

DR S. – Do not know where the break occurred, but apparently Rosebuds messed up and sold some items to other students, and then started to tell others later that the item was not authorized.

Dr. S and Mrs. Smith will investigate, talk to Rosebuds, and report back to the board.

**Next board
Meeting**

August 25, 2008 at 7:00pm

Adjournement

8:44