



Midlands STEM Institute

Board Meeting Minutes

November 14,, 2022

112 Crane St, Winnsboro, SC 29180

Call to order and Welcome, Chairman Thomas, who also read the mission statement.

Invocation - Stephen Gilchrist

Pledge of Allegiance - Lauren Beck

Confirmation of a Quorum - Emily Estep

Confirmation of Notice of Public Meeting - Cynthia Prince

Roll Call--present in person were Cynthia Prince, Kevin Thomas, Wes Welch, Dan Campbell, Lauren Beck, and Emily Estep. Present by Zoom were Mark Johnston, Stephen Gilchrist.

Public Comment: One parent and three faculty and staff spoke to the Board.

A. Board Elections

Wes Welch made a motion to nominate Kevin Thomas for Board Chair. Stephen Gilchrist seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.

Mark Johnston made a motion to recommend Stephen Gilchrist as vice chair. Dan Campbell seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.

Dan Campbell made a motion to nominate Lauren Beck for secretary. Emily Estep seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.

Emily Estep made a motion to nominate Dan Campbell for treasurer. Wes Welch seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.

B. Action Items

1. Dan Campbell made a motion to approve the October Board Minutes as presented. Mark Johnston seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.
2. Dan Campbell made a motion to approve the October Budget Report. Lauren Beck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.

C. Erskine Charter Reauthorization process, Janie Neeley, Director of Authorization

walked us through the process of what the renewal process will look like for MSI to complete next year. June 1, 2023 will be the due date to notify Erskine if we intend to renew the charter with them as authorizer.

D. Executive Director's Report

1. Enrollment Report. Currently at an alltime high of 214, and 38% African American.
2. FY22 Audit Results--good report. No findings of noncompliance and no adjustments required.
3. Mr. Young is the Teacher of the Month, Mrs. Cathcart is the Staff Member of the Month, and Savannah Lucas is the Student of the Month.

4. MSI was gifted two buses from the SC State Department of Education's surplus. Sports teams are doing well—Cross Country had their best season, volleyball got a late start but had a good season, and basketball is off to a great start, Robotics is going well, and archery is getting ready to start. First family day—Fall Bonanza—is this Friday.

5. Staff Thanksgiving fun—The Board is going to help the 41 faculty and staff have a bowling day the day before the holiday break.

E. Chairman's Report: Social Emotional Learning. Wes Welch made a motion stating that the Board acknowledges Proviso 1.93 and make a Resolution that teachers not instruct on topics related to transgender, LGBTQ, and CRT-related topics. Stephen Gilchrist seconded. Four yeses, one nay, and one abstention.

Kevin Thomas made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss contractual matters, legal briefings, updates and personnel matters. Emily Estep seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:14pm. The board will take any action deemed necessary and appropriate in open session following the Executive Session.

F. Executive Session: No action was taken in Executive Session. Dan Campbell made a motion to exit Executive Session and reenter Open Session. Lauren Beck seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.

G. Adjournment: Stephen Gilchrust made a motion to adjourn. Wes Welch seconded. There was no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Emily Estep, secretary
November 14, 2022*