

North Star Montessori Academy
3030 Wright Street
Marquette, MI 49855

Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 28th, 2022
5:15 p.m.

North Star Montessori Academy-Cultivating blended learning and success by inspiring every child in a student-centered community.

Board Members: Melissa Bowers, Roger Zappa, Lydia Bucklin, Jessica Danek
NMU: Betty LaPointe, NMU Charter Schools Office

“This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Directors in public for the purpose of conducting the school’s business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as inducted in the agenda”

1. Call to Order: Melissa Bowers called the regular NSMA Board meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.
2. Roll Call - Board of Directors present: Melissa Bowers, Roger Zappa, Lydia Bucklin, Jessica Danek. Quorum reached.
3. Others Present: Andrea Ballard, Angela Chang, Betty LaPointe.
4. Agenda Adoption:
 - a) Motion by Lydia Bucklin, supported by Roger Zappa to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
5. Public Comment: None.

Consent Agenda

6.
 - a) Approval of proposed minutes from the August 24th, 2022 meeting
 - b) Approval of August financial statements and August bills for payment.
- Motion by Lydia Bucklin, supported by Jessica Danek, to approve the consent agenda with the removal of Kara Green being listed as a Board Member and the addition of Mary Vandermollen as a member of ‘Others Present’ in the proposed minutes from August 24th, 2022. Vote: Unanimous approval. Motion passed.

Action Items

7. Continuity of Learning Plan
 - Motion by Lydia Bucklin, supported by Roger Zappa, to approve the Continuity of Learning Plan. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
8. Learning Goal Reporting

- Motion by Roger Zappa, supported by Lydia Bucklin to approve the Learning Goal report and to post it on the website as required. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.
9. Peanut Policy
- Motion by Lydia Bucklin, supported by Jessica Danek, to change the peanut policy to have us be a peanut-aware school and revisit the policy as needed based on student enrollment. Unanimous approval. Motion passed.

Reports/Discussion

1. **Superintendent/principal Report:** Andrea Ballard shared that the ice cream social is tomorrow from 4-5 pm. They are trying to plan community events once a term to get families in the school and familiar with one another. It is an attempt to rebuild the community that was lost during Covid-19. Looking at our enrollment numbers, we are lower than budgeted. We planned for 195 students and are currently at 190. High School is still at 33 students, middle school has 45 students, and elementary has a total of 112 students enrolled. Things were done in the budget to help ease us with this transition, but it is still something to be aware of. We do have 18 Pre-K, which is the highest enrollment we've had. It is helpful to be able to count on the tuition of those students, but they do not count towards our count day total. Next Friday is no school for students as it is a county-wide PD at the MSHS. Faculty will have breakout sessions, so it will be a great opportunity for networking with teachers working within the same subject matter. It will be a wonderful learning opportunity and a neat way to link our greater community area together. It has been a great year so far and returning teachers seem very happy and at ease compared to years past. Been a good start. As mentioned in the past, we did have a lot of problems with our painter last summer, which left administration to clean and finish the project. Since the painter didn't fulfill the contract, we are taking him to small claims court and asking for the full amount back.
11. **Elementary Principal Report:** Angela Chang said she and Adrian Francisco have been holding grade-level meetings. The teachers report that the kids have quickly adapted to the removal of Covid-19 restrictions and it has made a positive difference in their instruction. There have been some changes with Title I. Adrian has been taking a course through MARESA. It is a lot of information, so she is bringing bite-size pieces to the grade-level meetings for teachers to see how they can implement and apply them to their classrooms. This has been a huge asset. We have a few teachers that are doing the Montessori training. It is a lot at the beginning of the year while also starting their classrooms. They are working on how to provide time for them to get that work done. It was suggested that we consider delaying the start of training in the future, however, this year, the cost to enroll increased by \$500 by October so it wasn't an ideal option. Since there wasn't an option for Middle School and High School Montessori training, we are utilizing another type of instruction. There are 5 zoom sessions with an instructor, to be done during the middle/hs staff meetings, and topics will be modified based on the teachers' needs. Should be helpful. Mary Vandermollen has been working with Special Ed and
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will come next month to report at the next meeting. She has been a helpful resource.

12. **NMU Charter School Office report:** Betty LaPointe says the behavioral issues caused by Covid-19 have been interesting. She says teachers across the board report that they see a regression of two years, with 11th graders acting like 9th graders. It has been nice to hear teachers are feeling a little more normal. It has been two years of trauma for students, so she feels we should see differences now that restrictions have been removed. They are looking forward to the Charter Schools workshop meeting in Mt. Pleasant. The author of "Joy of Living" will attend via Zoom and speak about how to break up with your phone. It will be fun to see how she uses her research and how to apply it in schools. The Charter Schools Office is undergoing assurances, which happens every six years. It is a lot but is going well and KC is very organized. She mentioned the Angie Irwin seminar emails and asked if the board was receiving the information. She wasn't sure if there was a reward associated with attending.

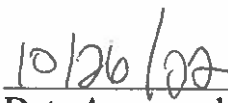
Announcements

13. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, October 26th, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
 14. **Public comment:** None
 15. **Board member comment:** None
 16. **Motion to adjourn** by Lydia Bucklin, supported by Roger Zappa. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.
- NOTICE: The location of the meeting provides barrier-free access to all persons. Persons needing assistance should call North Star Montessori Academy (906) 226-0156 approximately 1 hour before the meeting is scheduled.*

Official minutes of the school board meetings are stored in the school's business office and available for public inspection eight days after a meeting as proposed minutes and five days after the meeting at which they are approved.



Jessica Danek, NSMA Board Secretary



Date Approved

