

Silver Hill Horace Mann Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2017

1) Call to order: Meeting called to order at 1735

Members Present: P. Corriveau, P. Desmarais, T. Ghrist, W. McCarthy, S. Sanchez, M. Shepherd.

Members Absent: M. Burns, J. Tracey.

2) Vote to accept minutes: minutes accepted 6-0 vote.

3) Public comments

Guests: Devan Ferreira, Mike Murphy, Kristina Morowski, Jill Story, prospective board member.

Devan Ferreira discussed she and Mike Murphy's ad-hoc committee community outreach and communications about charter renewal vote down by HEA. Some highlights include: letters to the editor, school committee and Allison Bagg, of DESE. Formal email sent to Ms. Bagg from Ms. Ferreira and Mr. Murphy which discussed: further investigation of Dese vote, lack of impartiality of HEA leadership in voting process, ballot security and integrity, transparency of process and other school's faculty campaigning against SHHMCS renewal on school time. Ms. Bagg advised that the letter should be forward to the MA department of labor. Ms. Bagg clarified to Ms. Ferreira that if department of labor becomes involved, then the August 1st deadline for charter renewal application can be extended.

MS. Ferreira has been in touch with lawyer, Matt Plain, who may be helpful in retaining the SH charter. He has offered to come to the school discuss what he can offer in terms of legal aid.

Ms. Shepherd states that Matt Plain has requested from school officials such as mayor an official agreement in writing that students who are currently enrolled in SHHMCS that they will be able to stay at SHHMCS through 5th grade when the school is no longer a charter. Mr. Mayor and the superintendent have giving verbal agreement previously. No response has been received from any school officials on this issue. Ms. Shepherd discussed concern of parents re: charter school process and that parents of students in the higher grades have been removing their children from SH for the upcoming school year due to this uncertainty. Additionally, parents on the wait list have been declining acceptance into SHHMCS when offered because of the uncertainty.

Ms. Ferreira has had lengthy conversations with members of school committee who are in support of renewing the charter. These individuals have expressed that they are disappointed that the school committee did not have the opportunity to vote on the charter renewal.

Ms. Shepherd states that there is a need for a facilitated meeting. Mr. Corriveau feels that timing of vote for innovation school was not ideal. Staff didn't have time to research and understand the pros and cons of an innovation school.

Ms. Ferreira questioned if possible to apply to Horace Mann charter II. Per DESE, does not require HEA vote and there is no precedence. Horace Mann II only requires school committee support. The board of trustees can apply, they meet all their guidelines according to dept. of ed website. Applicant is reliant on faculty vote only.

Ms. Shepherd reiterated that she will support the staff with whatever they decide and that staff need to be on board.

Ms. Ferreira expressed the importance of sending statement out to community/parents that BOT is working for a backup plan. Ms. Ferreira also expressed sentiment that many parents herself included are concerned that the curriculum won't remain when SH returns to district.

4) Principals Report (see attached):

Check from foundation for \$10k received, thank-you.

DESE: concerned re no board chair. Ms. Shepherd is chair for this meeting only. Cited for having no treasurer.

Ms. Shepherd then reviewed email from Cliff Chuang (see attached). Mr. Chuang has reached out to HPS leadership and SHHMCS leadership with questions that need to be answered about the transition process (see attached email on principal's report) and published for parents. HPS has not responded to these questions and enrollment decreasing daily. These questions include:

- If my child attended SH during 2016-17 school year will s/he be attending SH 2017-18? What about future years?
- If my child was admitted to SH during the lottery held in spring 2017 for the 2017-2018 school year, will s/he be enrolled at SH in 2017-18? What about future years?
- Will SH offer tuition free full day kindergarten in 2017-18? What about future years?
- Will siblings of students who attend Silver Hill in 2017-18 receive preference for enrollment in SH in future years?
- Will the current instructional program and curriculum in place at SH in the 2016-17 school year be in place for 2017-18? What about future years?
- Will Silver Hill continue to serve grades K-5 in 2017-18? What about future years?

For example, waitlist is 42, and in May it was 186 for kindergarten. Special ed kids' numbers is above the average.

5) Committee Reports

a) Finance Committee: Warrants

Warrant 17-100: \$110.00: Leslye Zylkuski for books purchased

Motion to accept made by Ms. Desmarais, second by Mr. Corriveau.

Roll Call vote as follows:

M. Burns: Absent

P. Corriveau: Yes

P. Desmarais: yes

T. Ghrist: Yes

W. McCarthy: Yes

S. Sanchez: Yes

M. Shepherd: Yes

J. Tracey: Absent

Warrant 17-103: \$191,520.46: Payroll 25- June 9

Motion to accept by Ms. Desmarais, second by Mr. McCarthy.

Roll Call vote as follows:

M. Burns: Absent

P. Corriveau: Abstain

P. Desmarais: Yes

T. Ghrist: Yes

W. McCarthy: Yes

S. Sanchez: Abstain

M. Shepherd: Abstain

J. Tracey: Absent

Warrant 17-104: \$28,316.45: Payroll 26- June 23

Motion to accept by: Mr. McCarthy, second by Ms. Ghrist.

Roll Call vote as follows:

M. Burns: Absent

P. Corriveau: Abstain

P. Desmarais: yes

T. Ghrist: Yes

W. McCarthy: Yes

Ms. Shepherd: Abstain

S. Sanchez: Yes

J. Tracey: Absent

Warrant 17-106: \$1,400.00: May Institute – Grant 274

Motion to accept by Ms. Desmarais, second by Mr. McCarthy.

Roll Call vote as follows:

M. Burns: Absent

P. Corriveau: Yes

P. Desmarais: yes

T. Ghrist: Yes

W. McCarthy: Yes

M. Shepherd: Yes

S. Sanchez: Yes

J. Tracey: Absent

Warrant 17-107: \$15,168.97: Due to City

Roll Call vote as follows:

M. Burns: Absent

P. Corriveau: Abstain

P. Desmarais: yes

T. Ghrist: Yes

W. McCarthy: Yes

S. Sanchez: Abstain

M. Shepherd: Abstin

J. Tracey: Absent

- b) **Academic Excellence Committee:** Meeting was held to discuss schedule for next school year.
- c) **Governance Committee:** Jill Story, prospective board member discussed her background in education and highlights of her career.

8/9: Executive Session/ Adjourn meeting. Motion made to move to executive session for the purpose of discussing prospective board member application.

Meeting adjourned at 1845 pm.

Next meeting: TBD.

Additional Documents: Principals Report.