



# MACSA MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2020

9:00 am - 11:30 am

Via Zoom

Welcome & Introductions	Heather Ross called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
Reading of the Mission Statement	To increase the quality of charter school authorizing in the state of Minnesota by developing and identifying practices and policies that ensure effective oversight and evaluation of Minnesota charter schools.
Establish Quorum	Heather Ross noted the presence of a quorum.
Meeting Norms	Aaliyah Hodge reviewed the meeting norms.
Consent Agenda	Matt Hillman moved to accept the consent agenda, Sarah Schmidt Seconded the Motion to Approve Agenda
Guests	<p>Stakeholder updates:</p> <p><u>MDE update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant update:</li><li>• The FY21 CSP Start-Up Grant round is open. The application period closes October 9, 2020 at 3:30 p.m., central time.</li><li>• We are looking for peer reviewers for the current grant round. If you are interested, please reach out to Rhianon at Rhianon.Sargent@state.mn.us.</li><li>• MDE is currently working on updating the High-Quality Charter School CSP Grant eligibility methodology. We are planning to hold a stakeholder feedback session by the end of the month/beginning of next. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Rhianon.Sargent@state.mn.us. Additionally, if you have school leaders and parents who are interested, please also extend the invitation to them.</li><li>• Authorizer Training Funds are available. MDE pre-approval of training is needed before reimbursable expenses can be incurred. Unspent grant funds can roll over into the next year, but all training funds should be expended by September 30, 2022.</li></ul> <p>1. Boot Camp Update:</p>

- The Charter School Boot Camp dates for the 2021-2022 school year have been selected. At this time, all sessions will be held virtually through the end of March 2021. The Charter School Boot Camp webpage includes upcoming training dates, times, locations, topics and registration links.
2. Charter Center Update:
    - Not being sent out at this time per MDE guidance to reduce the amount of communications from MDE; however, MDE is disseminating Reminders and Updates for Superintendents and Charter Leaders. Those interested in receiving this publication should email [mde.communications@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.communications@state.mn.us). A special Charter Center Update was recently disseminated.
  3. MAPES Updates:
    - Questions and Answers generated in the review process are emailed to Cohort Two authorizers on Fridays and are posted online to the MDE website on the Authorizer Performance Page.
    - Welcome Meetings for MAPES Round Two, Cohort Three are scheduled for January 6, 2021.
    - Welcome Meetings for MAPES Round Two, Cohort Four are scheduled for July 1, 2021.
  4. Recent Submissions:
    - New Charter School Contracts: Authorizers with approved new school affidavits are submitting new contracts. Once contracts are accepted, LEA charter district numbers will be issued.
    - Charter Renewal Contracts: 38 contracts renewing July 1, 2020 have been received. Charter amendments and revisions based on prior renewal reviews are also under review.
    - Authorizer Income and Expenditure Reports.
    - Supplemental Affidavits: Seven supplemental affidavits for grade/site expansions have been received and are currently under review.
  5. Updated MDE Documents:
    - Recently posted to the MDE website: Reporting Calendar for Charter Schools–revised with corrected Minnesota Common Course Catalog (MCCC) reporting dates.
    - Merger Guidance for Charter Schools and Authorizers– under Charter School Resources and Authorizer Resources.
    - Charter School Admissions and Enrollment Guidance.
    - Charter School Admissions and Enrollment Guidance–under Charter School Resources.
  6. Updated and in the queue to be posted:
    - Change in Authorizer Request Instructions.

- Guidance on Forming a Charter School in Minnesota (formerly How to Start a Charter School in Minnesota).
- Supplemental Affidavit Instructions.
- Authorizer Annual Report Template and Instructions.
- Guide to Opening a New Charter School.
- Application to Authorize Charter Schools in Minnesota.
- Charter School Assurances.
- Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening Program Request Instructions.
- Guidance on Conflicts of Interest for Charter Schools and Authorizers.
- 8. Documents under review to be updated:
  - Guidance for Contracts with Management Organizations.
  - Frequently Used Acronyms and Terms Glossary for Charter Schools.
- 9. New guidance under development:
  - Guidance for Finding Student Records from Closed Charter Schools.
- 10. Upcoming Deadlines:
  - Charter School Assurances: due to authorizers, copied to MDE by October 30, 2020.

Neel Kashkari and Justice Alan Page update:

- Use the law to put children first.
- Neel Kashkari and Justice Alan Page presented on the Page Amendment. Neel Kashkari shared the importance of addressing disparities, closing the gap for graduation, and college readiness.
- Political issues often do not have solutions that are agreed upon, which is why it is important to use the law to put children first. In 1857, an education provision in the Minnesota constitution set the educational goals. Justice Page discussed the relationship between educational opportunities and justice in social, racial, healthcare, housing.
- The goal is to create something that puts children first.
- The State Constitution currently defines educational structures, and we want to shift the focus to include children and outcomes that we can make “quality” full preparation measured against uniform standards.
- State would have no higher duty than to fulfill the high-quality education.
- This is about creating the opportunity to transform education and bring about real change.
- Neel Kashkari: The current issue is with the words “access” and “adequate.” Florida is an example.
- Justice Page: Civil rights are created. A right without a remedy has no value.
- Some of the arguments against the amendment have been unfunded mandate, trojan horse for privatization, only the wealthy will be able to afford litigation, there is a possible taxation issue and funding for public schools, and some homeschool group concerns.

MACS Update:

- Eugene Piccolo shared that on Thursday at 4:30 PM, innovation and leadership awards will be taking place and the commissioner will be the headline speaker.
- MACS conducted a board-governance survey and found that 51% had non-majority boards, 45% had nine to eleven member boards, and 80% of board members were white; even though two thirds of charter school students are students of color. There was also talk of the need for further board training.
- MACS board update:
  - MACS is looking at the definition of equity and equitable educational opportunities.
  - Ethics of non-licensed administrators and the fact that there is nobody to whom they report.
  - Definition of a “teacher” to be on school boards, who is considered a teacher? Both PELSB and EdMn are also discussing questions concerning the definition of “teacher.”
  - Board is revising proposals from last sessions.
  - St. Paul and HRA Bonding Bill and sending out talking points.
  - MDE school finance work group is looking at 40 proposals and will be deciding which proposal will be going to the commissioner and the governor.
  - P20 Council is looking at performance measures for transitions.
  - There is a national call with state charter organizations on Friday, and we will be looking at contracts, accountability, and authorizers’ roles during COVID.
  - Funding:
    - There is discussion to raise the overall base amount from \$6,500 to \$8,500 by FY23-24 and remove the local levy amount.
    - Equity aid to all schools and students in protected classes.
    - Comprehensive schools and “full service” for low-performing schools.
    - Triple ELL and Indian Education funding.
    - Money for school counselors and nurses, and possible increases for charter schools by \$3,500.
    - Special education funding in charter schools, 125% of local school districts. Equity is at the heart of the conversation.
    - Wendy Choi asked a question concerning issues with hiring teachers during COVID. Eugene Piccolo shared that MACS has been hearing that schools have been

	<p>having issues hiring teachers, and he is looking into possibly holding schools harmless this year.</p>
<p>Directors Report</p>	<p>Director at Center for School Change shared EDMN plans for charter moratorium</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <a href="#">Education Minnesota Candidate Questionnaire</a> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Charter are represented as private school</li> <li>ii. <a href="#">Possible key points</a></li> <li>iii. Letter to Representative</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Second School Choice Coalition meeting will be with Senator Klobuchar staff members Tommy Wolfe/Brian Davis- on Wednesday, October 7 to discuss charter schools, and to make sure that we are invited to the decision table around public education.</li> <li>c. Last week I met with Karen Calcaterra to see what is available for the FY21 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Paula and Rhianon want to explore making some arrangements for possible inclusion at an MDE authorizer conference instead of at a MACSA meeting, they are reaching out internally regarding the school climate and culture information and who might best be able to present about possible non-academic contract measures that would address the nurturing and supportive environment at the school and other climate related things. I think they are also looking at other forms of accountability during COVID.</li> <li>ii. Karen Millette would prefer if MACSA authorizers or schools have questions, that they reach out to her directly so she can answer particular questions and respond to issues.</li> <li>iii. Carly Lykes about DIRS (Disciplinary Incident Reporting System) and is not available on November 6 for the MACSA meeting. She indicated that she could arrange a separate time to present, maybe in November or December. She is responsible for managing the DIRS system, data collection, reporting and responding to any data requests.</li> <li>iv. School Finance, and Mary Weigel will be working with a charter center to indicate someone from School Finance who could present at MACSA on January 8 re: COVID, funding and correct coding, and other questions related to PPP, EEIG, EIDL, CARES, etc.</li> <li>v. Michelle Carey and Sharon Peck regarding EDIAM and the site verification coordinator role, and they are both happy to present to MACSA February 5.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vi. Chris Reynolds is planning to present about special education at the April MACSA meeting, and he would like more information from authorizers about what in particular they might want to hear more about.</li> <li>vii. Kat Anthony-Wigle of PELSB, would be willing to present to authorizers about teacher licensure compliance and STAR reporting, if there were to be any questions about that or if it would be of interest to authorizers. She also mentioned others at PELSB who could be available to present on licensure, teacher ethics, or teacher preparatory programs more broadly, if there is any interest in that. Just let me know if you think authorizers would be interested in either conversation, and I can connect with PELSB to check their availability.</li> </ul> <p>2. October Anti-Racist Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. October 16, 2020 meeting: Please continue to read/listen to your book. I know you want to jump to the next step and start applying these concepts to authorizing, but it is very important that we spend time understanding history and definitions of concepts before we start applying.</li> <li>b. The next step is going to allow us to practice being anti-racits authorizers by discussing real situations that have taken place in charter schools in Minnesota.</li> </ul> <p>3. Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. September 21, 2020 with Bush Foundation grant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. James Ewer and Alul Yesak meet with the Bush foundation. They are looking forward to our application.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. GMS GRANT: As a condition to the grant we received from GMS, MACSA must report on the following milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GMS grant wants to know how we are operationalizing our P&amp;S. This is work you have already done back in 2018 (before I joined MACSA) as part of developing the MACSA P&amp;S.</li> <li>2. Share an overview of practices utilized to diagnose and reflect on new school authorizer practices utilizing the Principles and Standards.</li> <li>3. Report what next steps will come out of the group's findings (based on question 1), particularly any supporting implementation (examples) of recommended changes in practice. In the near future please be on the lookout for emails from me, I will ask for your help in responding to the two questions above</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	and identifying possible examples of the utilization MACSA P&S.
<p>Committee Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Executive Committee</li>   <li>● Legislative and Policy Committee</li>   <li>● Finance Committee</li>   <li>● Effective Practices Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Executive Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aaliyah Hodge shared an update: the executive committee has been engaged in planning for the October board meeting,</li> <li>○ Executive committee asked the board to please stay focused during anti-racist training time and not engage in other authorizing work.</li> <li>○ Aaliyah Hodge extended welcome to all committee leaders to join the executive committee during meetings.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>● Legislative and Policy Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The update was provided by Emily.</li> <li>○ The policy team proposed the approach to the next steps of the Teacher of Color Bill and will be reviewing policies and looking for approval.</li> <li>○ Details about the policy will be approved again before being shared.</li> <li>○ Sarah Schmidt motioned to approve the FY21 legislative policy priorities, and Larry McKenzie seconded. Motion passed.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>● Finance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Erin Anderson was not in attendance for the Finance committee update. Please see the Treasurer’s Report in the packet.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>● Effective Practices Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wendy Choi provided an update on the organizational goals.</li> <li>○ Alul reached out to MDE Data analytics and has requested a meeting to discuss a possible data request on all charter school data (anonymised data).</li> <li>○ Nalani McCutcheon commented on getting district information through MDE and being required to pay fees.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Board of Directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Anti-racist conversation on the book <u>We Want to do More than Survive</u>.</li> <li>● Focus on the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education case and its consequences.</li> </ul>
Closing Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Next meeting is Friday, November 6 at 9 AM</li> </ul>
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Liz Wynne motioned to adjourn, Heather Ross seconded, motion passed.</li> </ul>