

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 07, 2020 | 9am-10:30am, 10:30 AM MDE Guest
PUC Oak Park, 1701 Oak Park Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Welcome & Introductions	Larry McKenzie called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Read the mission & introduction. Meeting norms reviewed.
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	Larry McKenzie noted the presence of a quorum.
Consent Agenda	<i>Erin Anderson motioned. Liz Wynne seconded. Motion passed.</i>
Guests	<p>Stakeholders update:</p> <p><u>GMS Update:</u> Rose Elias and Cay Kimbrell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rose shared information on the school performance frameworks workshop, to take place at 8:30 am on March 12th at the Machine Shop, 300 2nd St SE, Minneapolis. Cay - shared information on GMS's talent playbook, which includes recruiting, retaining, and hiring teachers and talent management. Teach Minnesota is working on alternative pathways for elementary and special education teacher certification. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMS will share online resources and upcoming trainings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They worked with Ed Fuel on the webinars. <p><u>MDE Update:</u> Karen Calcaterra and Mike Schultz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen thanked the board for their work, and added that the Charter Center at MDE is now under Daron Korte. MAPES Round Two, Cohort One has begun. Questions and answers generated in the review process will be posted online on the MDE website under the Authorizer Performance page. Welcome meetings for MAPES Round Two, Cohort Two are scheduled for July 1, 2020. Welcome Meetings for MAPES Round Two, Cohort Three are scheduled for January 6, 2021. The Charter Center Is looking for peer reviewers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The grant competition for both start-up and significant expansion/replication grants is open. Applications are due February 28, 2020. If you are interested in serving as a peer reviewer, please contact Rhianon at: rhianon.sargent@state.mn.us or 651-582-8759. ● Change in Authorizer: One change in authorizer request was approved. Two others were submitted and are currently under review. ● Revisions of 2019/2018 renewal contracts: Clarifications and changes to renewal contracts that have been submitted to MDE are under review. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Charter Center is working on updates to the following documents—please watch for updated drafts for review: (1) Special Education Primer for Charter Schools and Authorizers, (2) Guide to Opening a New Charter School, (3) New School Next Steps, and (4) Charter Contract Guidance. ● Extended Time Revenue grants for charter schools are under review. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. ● Authorizer written notice of withdrawal: If an authorizer plans to withdraw on June 30, 2021, the intent to withdraw is due on March 2, 2020. ● The Charter Center now reports to Assistant Commissioner Daron Korte. Daron oversees the Office of Student Health and Well-being. Additionally, Heather Mueller, who previously served as an assistant commissioner, has been promoted to Deputy Commissioner. ● Indian Education requirements for charter schools: The Office of Indian Education developed a document for authorizers regarding Indian education requirements, which was distributed at the meeting. A copy is attached to the MDE update. <p><u>MDE Guest: Daron Korte</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Authorizers introduced themselves. ● “Charter/authorizer” issues as related to policy. ● Daron was an attorney at Chicago schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daron served the Senate Education Committee. ○ Daron also served as part of the government-relations team at MDE. ○ Daron also provided oversight for special education and food service. <p><u>Goal of Meeting With Commissioner</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Authorizers asked for the Commissioner's policy agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The commissioner's policy agendas are safe schools, student mental health, non-exclusionary discipline, and Indian Education. ○ First day of the session will be February 11, 2020. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supplemental budget is expected to be available on February 29.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Representative Pinto is advocating for early learning programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MN Students Survey has indicated poor trends with respect to student mental health and student populations. ● MDE has put together a “school finance working group” to look at special education funding, the Olmstead plan, and multi-agency conversations with the Department of Human Rights. ● Authorizers asked about MDE’s stance on Justice Page’s proposed constitutional Amendment (equal right to quality education). MDE does not take a stance on the Amendment. ● The results from the <i>Cruz-Guzman</i> case will impact how Justice Page’s amendment will play out. ● MDE is also against conversation therapy. ● Education MN is working on the Tier 3 and Tier 2 licensure processes. ● Authorizers asked about the charter moratorium and where MDE stands with respect to it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MDE has been working with MACS and is focused more on requirements for a better need/demand study for new charter schools. ○ Original intent for innovation. ○ Focus on the schools opening. ● Asked about MAPES. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Erin suggested streamlining the MAPES process, which will impact the cost of MAPES for authorizers. ● Charter school quality is a crucial part of MAPES and MDE needs to look at academics as part of MAPES. ● Changes in authorizers: will need to look at how the process applies to preoperational schools. MDE needs to look at whether preoperational schools should be eligible.
Break	5-minute break.
Director Updates	<p><u>Director’s Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alul opened with recognizing Black History Month. <p>The executive committee has selected St. Paul civil rights leader and educator Bill Willson for recognition this month. Mr. Willson has been committed to the causes of Minnesota’s charter schools, human rights, and the recognition of the black community.</p> <p>Charter moratorium updates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Representative John Lesch has scheduled a community town hall event on February 8.

2. Representative Lesch's seat will be challenged by Athena Hollins, who is currently in the process of building her support base.
3. The cost of billboards in the Twin Cities area ranges from \$10,000 to \$16,000. Alul spoke with potential film-makers, and so far the average price range seems to be between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Action Items:

Letter to Representative Lesch has been sent.

Google Accounts:

Google account: to address the problems that have been expressed with respect to accessing documents on the G-drive. The best way to resolve this was to create a Google email account that would be used only for MACSA. The board chose to have the google accounts be available on a case-by-case basis.

Updated List:

Alul sent a request to update the charter school directors' contact information. Authorizers will continue to update the document already created or send the information on school directories directly to Alul.

Data Request:

MACS shared that there may be a CMO that is planning to become an authorizer. Alul submitted a data request to MDE seeking any new authorizer applications, and Paula Higgins responded that there has been only one since 2018, which was from MOCHA.

Racial Equity Trainings:

The Minnesota Department of Education—Early Learning Programs Division has shared their racial-equity training videos. This is a great resource to have as we move towards training opportunities for the board to engage with issues of equity, race, and Minnesota's current education status.

Our commitment to serving Minnesota's diverse students will be reflected best if we make a conscious effort to engage with training opportunities that directly impact the quality of authorizing.

	<p>Alul contacted NACSA to see whether they had any training resources available to authorizers on the topics of race and equity. They responded that they did not have any formal training, but they did share the following two resources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. https://www.equityalliancemn.org 2. https://mneep.org <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alul to ask GMS for funds for the billboard. • Get on Almanac on PBS regarding moratorium. <p><u>MACSA - Cultural Competency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training—authorizers will review the training and come to the March meeting prepared to go over it.
Executive Committee	<p>Executive Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lary provided an update. • Alul will draft a narrative for the data provided by Molly.
Effective Practices Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dana shared proposal—asked for more input and approval. • <i>Heather motioned. Erin seconded. Motion passed.</i>
Legislative and Policy Committee	<p><u>Fee Factor for Multi-sites:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately \$2500 per site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Dana Peterson motioned to adopt. Cindy Murphy seconded. Motion passed with one abstention (Liz Wynn).</i> <p><u>Native & Teachers of Color Act:</u> Sam Diaz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus of the act is on teacher preparation. • <i>Erin Anderson motioned to support the act. Dana Peterson seconded. Motion passed.</i> <p><u>Policy Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For website and Charter Day <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revise to .4 2. Relates to MACS “MACS” 3. “Efforts” 4. Just motioned • <i>Dana Peterson motioned to approve with above corrections. Sarah Schmidt Seconded. Motion passed.</i> • Charter day—March 4

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The plan is to have bundt cakes similar to last year. The agenda will be set, and authorizers will be meeting with available representatives.
Closing Items	February 10—Equity meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alul will revisit racial equity training for the board during the March 4 meeting. ● Racial Equity training tabled until March.
Adjourn	<i>Heather motioned to adjourn. Dana seconded. Motion passed. Meeting ended at 11:00 am.</i>
Minutes submitted by	Alul Yesak

Authorizer	Name	Voting Rep / Alternate	Quorum
Audubon Center of The North Woods			
	Erin Anderson	Voting Rep	X
	James	Alternate	X
Bethel University			
	Heather Ross	Voting Rep	X
	Seann Dikkers	Alternate	A
Chisago Lakes School District			
	Sarah Schmidt	Voting Rep	X
	Darci Peckman-Krueger	Alternate	A
Friends of Education			
	Tami Richey	Member	A
The Guild			
	Cindy Murphy	Voting Rep	A
	Glory Kibbel	Alternate	A
	Lynn Nordren	Member	A
Innovative Quality School			
	Dave Bakke	Voting Rep	A

	Tom Tapper	Alternate	A
Northfield Public School District			
	Mary Grace Hanson	Voting Rep	X
	Matt Hillmann	Alternate	A
Novation Education Opportunities			
	Wendy Swanson Choi	Voting Rep	A
	Adam Myhand	Alternate	A
	Tony Vu	Member	X
Pillsbury United Communities			
	Larry McKenzie	Voting Rep	X
	Antonio Cardona	Alternate	A
	Emily Edstrom Moore	Member	X
	Samantha Diaz	Member	A
Student Achievement Minnesota			
	Liz Wynne	Voting Rep	X
University of St. Thomas			
	Dana Peterson	Voting Rep	X
	Aaliyah Hodge	Alternate	X
	Molly McGraw Healy	Member	A
Volunteers of America - Minnesota			
	Stephanie Olsen	Voting Rep	A
	Rod Haenke	Alternate	X
Winona Area Public Schools			
	Maurella Cunningham	Voting Rep	A
	Richard Dahman	Alternate	NA
MACSA Director	Alul Yesak	NonVoting	X