



MIDLANDS ARTS CONSERVATORY

School Board Meeting

November 8, 2018

3806 North Main Street

5:15 p.m.

Board members present: Rosie Craig, Catharine Aitkin, Jasmine Woodson, David Turner, Robert Jesselson, Crystal Aldamuy, Kathleen Warthen, Jennifer Morrison, Darion McCloud (telephone), Dom Mjartan (telephone), Andy Anderson (telephone), Shannon Hickey

- I. Rosie Craig called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.
- II. Approval of the Minutes: Rosie asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion: Crystal Aldamuy made the motion. Robert Jesselson seconded. The minutes were approved (0-10).

III. Chair Report – Rosie Craig

1. Dom Mjartan and Rosie Craig were successful in reducing the building rent from \$15,000 a month to \$5,000 a month. This will save the school over \$100,000 by the summer.
2. Crystal Aldamuy produced a write-up about MAC that has been shared with several potential donors.
3. Rosie Craig and Shannon Hickey continue to work on J. Brit demand letter. Brit has asked for the school's insurance certificate. Early mediation and participation of MAC insurance carrier are being explored. No claim has been filed.
4. Kathleen Warthen has created an ad for the ballet playbill.
5. Rosie Craig and Dom Mjartan reiterated need for all Board members to contribute to school. Darian McCloud and Catharine Aitkin shared concerns about amount. Dom Mjartan suggested that MAC's Board treat contributions anonymously with goal of 100% participation only. Report to Board will be in aggregate only with deadline by end of the year.
6. Catharine Aitkin suggested that the Board consider honorary artists/members. Honorary members may act in an advisory capacity or participate in school activities. Shannon Hickey suggested that Friends of MAC might fulfill this need. Darian McCloud suggested that *artist* or *art* should be in the name to make it more appealing. Parameters need to be outlined. Rosie Craig asked Darian

McCloud to develop name and purpose (i.e., help the school in some capacity). Darian McCloud asked that the Board discuss this.

IV. Committee Reports

1. Finance: Dom Mjartan reported.

- MAC has received temporary rent reduction from building owners. Owner is impressed with leadership of the school and understood dilemma of school, so was quick to fulfill MAC's request. Temporary relieve was granted without payback.
- Additional issues and repairs were discussed with owner. In time, MAC may approach the owner with support for building repairs because of overall improvement.
- Latest budget is available to Board member but was not discussed.

2. Fundraising: Andy Anderson reported.

- Andy Anderson had reached out to various grant opportunities. Only a few are active – SC Arts Commission and Hootie Foundation. Crystal Aldamuy has located several others, which are listed in the agenda. Minuette Floyd investigated the Target travel grants, but deadline has passed.
- There is a potential contact for grant development, Robin Haley-Burton (Philharmonic), who has offered to review MAC efforts and provide advice on process. Planning for this meeting the week after Thanksgiving.
- Catharine Aitkin and Kathleen Warthen will pursue opportunities with the Central Carolina Community Foundation.
- David Turner has suggested that committee set up a Google calendar for developing and tracking grants.
- Andy Anderson shared local opportunity for grant workshop.
- Dom Mjartan suggested Board drive to show 100% participation by year's end with potential match and Walton Family Foundation initial contact for deliberate outreach in 2019.

3. Education Development: Jennifer Morrison reported.

- Shannon Hickey's state PADEPP orientation has been completed. Jennifer Morrison shared an overview of the process with the Board.
- Jennifer Morrison is securing needed support contacts for Shannon Hickey as the SC Public Charter School District is not as responsive as needed.
- Jennifer Morrison presented a brief overview of state accountability for middle schools with the *Guide to the 2018 SC School Report Cards*.
- Jennifer Morrison presented need for revisions related to MAC's original charter goals, objectives, and evaluations for Board discussion.

4. Arts Collaboration: David Turner reported.

- David Turner has grant application from Symphony League - \$500 will pay for tickets and transportation. Shannon Hickey will complete.

- David Turner met with Ebenezer to look at stage and facility for MAC holiday concert on December 11. MAC will need to do own set-up. David Turner is working to have executive council waive janitorial fee.
- Free tickets to *Nutcracker* have been secured.

5. Strategic Planning: Rosie Craig reported that strategic planning is in process, including Bull Street development (available building had stage and performance facilities). David Turner will contact Bob Hughes and Sandy McGurkin.

V. Head of School Report – Shannon Hickey

1. Current enrollment is 76. Lost student due to family move.
2. Shannon Hickey needs permission to 2019-20 open enrollment once website is live.
3. Website is a work in progress. Kevin Shelton, one of MAC's parents, will set up the school's new website once Shannon provides content. Currently, MAC does have a single webpage that is live, which states that new website is in process. Shannon Hickey expects that the new website will be live at the end of next week.
4. We are going to work with a marketing group/consultant – John Williams – who has been successful in South Carolina. MOA is in process and includes fee of \$1,200/month.
5. Several elementary schools would like MAC to come present for potential recruitment in 2019-20.
6. ETV filmed segment at MAC on this week, including impressive lesson on three-point lighting. Segment should be live in the next week.
7. Shannon Hickey is planning to start parent information and shadowing sessions beginning in December. Jennifer suggested that the Board work to protect Shannon Hickey's time/focus on curriculum and instruction in the spring.

VI. New Business

1. Through Boys and Girls Club, Shannon Hickey has found a good option for hot lunches for students. Draft contract was provided to Board for discussion. The cost per meal is \$5.00. The concern is that sixty percent of MAC students would be considered for free and reduced lunch in another school; MAC does not have money to supplement the lunch cost for these students. Shannon Hickey is working on Title I paperwork, but this will not cover all students who have the need. An estimate for needed funds to cover lunch for students who cannot afford \$5.00/meal would be approximately \$30,000.00 for the 2019-20 school year. Before the Board will consider the contract in the future, members will consider

options and funding for students with need.

2. Shannon Hickey needs 16 instruments for implementation of the Music program next semester – \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00. Robert Jessleson will investigate procurement of used instruments. Kathleen Warthen will provide a full-size violin and cello. Shannon Hickey would like to provide letters for anyone who donates instruments. Shannon Hickey will provide list of needed instruments. Board members are encouraged to solicit instruments.

VII. Adjournment

1. Action items for Board members include seeking out donations of instruments, funding work, and community relations.
2. Next Board meeting is December 13, 2018.