

Midlands Arts Conservatory
Board of Directors
Thursday, July 11, 2019

Minutes

Attendance: Rosie Craig, Chair; Catharine Aitken, Secretary; David Turner, Dr. Robert Jesselson, Dr. Barbara Campbell; Ex-Officio/Staff: Brad Tillman, Head of School; Marsha Merry, Chief of Operations

- I. **Call to Order:** Board Chair, Rosie Craig, called the meeting to order at 5:27 pm.
- II. **Reading of Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **Motion to approve June 13, 2019 minutes made by Dr. Aldamuy, seconded by Mr. Turner, approved unanimously.**
- III. **Reports from Officers**
 - A. Head of School Report- Brad Tillman
 1. **Enrollment- 151**
 - a) Open Slots (Grades): 8th grade- 10 (all dance); 7th- 4; 6th- 15
 - b) Open Slots (Arts): Visual Arts- 2 in 6th (over in 7th/8th); Theatre- 0 (full every grade); 6th-7; 7th-6; 8th-full; Dance- 6th-6; 7th-2; 8th-11
 2. **Staff-**
 - a) *Academics:* need 1.0 SPED; 1.0 SS (Mr. Hoose left); .5 Math + .5 Science (or 1.0 combined); signed 1.0 combined ELA/SS;
 - b) *Arts:* Theatre- 1.0 Julian DeLeon; .5 Mike ?; Sallie Best moved to position as Arts Coordinator; Visual Arts- 1.0 Rico, .5 ?; Music- still negotiating, but may be a combo of Sarah Evanovich, returning music theory teacher & piano instructor; 1.0 in Dance fell through; obtained approval from Ms. Kiddy to increase staff budget or Dance in order to bring on slate of high-quality adjunct faculty
 3. **Charter Goals Revision-** Mr. Tillman will have these completed by August Board mtg. for final approval, if not before.
 - B. Chair's Report
 1. **New Board Members**
 - a) *Dr. Barbara Campbell-* **Motion made by Mr. Turner; seconded by Dr. Jesselson; unanimously approved.**
 - b) *Larry Hembree-* **Motion made by Dr. Jesselson; seconded by Dr. Aldamuy; unanimously approved.**
 - c) *Dr. Gloria Thibodeaux-* **Motion made by Dr. Aldamuy; seconded by Ms. Aitken; unanimously approved.**

2. Principal Evaluation- Dr. Jesselson will ask Dr. Gause and Mr. Turner will ask Richland One administrator friend if either would be willing to perform required annual PDEP evaluation on Principal Tillman.
3. Executive Session- at this point, **Mr. Turner made a motion to go into executive session. Motion was seconded by Dr. Aldamuy; unanimously approved. Motion later to exit executive session made by Ms. Aitken, seconded by Dr. Jesselson, unanimously approved.**
4. Public Relations/Marketing- Larry Hembree suggested to go in-house for some of our marketing materials & passed along referral for website upgrade support. Gratitude expressed by Board members for necessary support provided by John Williams (\$14k/yr.); Ms. Craig requested we keep him on as a retainer as a PR/Hiring consultant.

C. Committee Reports

1. Finance- \$6,888 per pupil expenditure; exploring future possibilities for after-care revenue stream
2. Fundraising- Dr. Jesselson working on 4 \$10k grants for Music Program (Lipscomb, Harry Chapin, Sheila Johnson (BET), Mockingbird); It was agreed that Committee Chair (Mr. Turner) will approve all grant requests with consult from Mr. Tillman and Ms. Merry prior to submission.
3. Education Development- see PDEP discussion under HOS Report
4. Arts Collaboration- Mr. Turner reported he is working on several fronts.
5. Strategic Planning- Ms. Craig is focusing on relocation, including properties in N. Cola and Sunset Blvd. Mr. Tillman reported his belief that we may outgrow current leased bldg. after this school term.
6. Transition- Set date for HOS/Staff/Board Mixer Sun., Aug. 11 hosted by Mr. Turner, after which Committee will be disbanded.

IV. New Business

A. Budget (2019-20)

1. Mr. Tillman noted a few changes including increase in dance salary allocation and a rent reduction Mr. Mjartan negotiated with landlord from \$20k to \$12,500/month.
2. **Motion to approve 2019-2020 budget as presented made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Dr. Aldamuy, unanimously approved.**

B. Change Dates of Monthly Board Meetings

1. **Motion to change dates of Monthly Board Meetings from 2nd Thursdays to 3rd Tuesdays beginning September made by Dr. Aldamuy, seconded by Mr. Turner, unanimously approved.**

C. Music Program Format

1. Dr. Jesselson presented the proposal formulated by the Board Music committee (David Turner, and Bob Jesselson) and Ms. Evanovich whereby 7th-12th grade music majors would experience a 3 hr. time block

consisting of 1 hour chamber music/chamber orchestra rehearsal, 1 hour instrument-specific technique (violin, viola, cello), and 1 hr. of a mix of piano, theory/history and chorus. 6th grade Music Majors would be allowed 1 hr. Arts exploration. While other art areas might allow minors or cross-discipline, Dr. Jesselson strongly asserted the Music Committee and Ms. Evanovich's belief that Strings students needed 3 hours of daily instruction to reach desired goals by 12th grade, since this is a Conservatory model.

2. Mr. Tillman and Ms. Merry noted that the Board voted last year in accordance with the current Charter and it has already been promised to current students that 6th-8th grade students would be allowed an hour of a minor or Arts Exploration this year.
3. A discussion ensued on the needs of students and arts disciplines.
4. Ms. Merry proposed a compromise to allow students the option of opting out of the minor and taking 3 hours of their Major instead this year. Also, that staff would meet with Music students in the first few days of school to present the Strings teachers request and to encourage, but not require, Music students to choose all 3 hours for Music. Finally, Mr. Tillman recommended we revisit and evaluate Major/Minors after a couple of months of implementation at our October Board Meeting.

V. Meeting Adjourned

- A. **Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Aldamuy, seconded by Mr. Turner, unanimously approved.**

Mandatory Board Training:

Wednesday, July 24, 2019 6:00-9:00 pm MAC

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, August 8, 2019 5:15 pm MAC