

I. Mission Statement

- A.** The mission of Monarch River Academy is to develop the individual gifts of students in Tulare County and adjacent counties to become proficient in Common Core State Standards and become critical thinkers, responsible citizens and innovative leaders prepared for academic and real-life achievement in the 21st Century. The mission will be accomplished in a personalized environment that fosters successful achievement through quality, personalized, standards-based education, which could include online coursework, offline textbook work, and unique hands-on and experiential learning experiences facilitated in partnership with students, parents, staff, and community.

II. Opening Items

Directors Present:

Dr. Craig Wheaton, Elizabeth Wagner, Sarah Sanchez, & Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter

Directors Absent:

Dr. Sam Nofziger

Guests Present:

Steph Johnson, Dr. Laurie Goodman, Joanna Fung, Lorraine Sewell, Jim Surmeian, Dr. Steven James

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Dr. Craig Wheaton called the meeting of the Board of Directors of Monarch River Academy to order on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

B. Flag Salute

Steph Johnson led the Flag Salute.

C. Discussion & Potential Action on the Approval of the Agenda

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the agenda.

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

E. Discussion & Potential Action to Approve Board Meeting Minutes

1. Regular Board Meeting: December 13, 2022

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2022 Board Meeting.

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

2. Special Board Meeting: December 16, 2022

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2022 Board Meeting.

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Finance

A. Discussion & Potential Action on the December 2022 Financial Report

Jim Surmeian from Charter Impact presented the school's December 2022 Financial Report. He informed the Board the school submitted their Funding Determination for an anticipated 5 year funding approval.

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter inquired about the two new grants. Mr. Surmeian gave an overview of the grants and what the intended funds can be used for.

The Board Members inquired about how the school plans to approach one time vs reoccurring funds.

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the December 2022 Financial Report. Steph Johnson shared that the purpose of the school's reserves will help when/if needed.

Dr. Craig Wheaton referenced the Governor's budget release and how it impacts the school and also commented that the school's current fiscal health is very positive.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the December 2022 Financial Report

Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Discussion & Potential Action on the Executive Director & Deputy Director Divvy Expenses

There were no Divvy expenses in December.

IV. Academic Excellence

A. Discussion & Potential Action on the School Accountability Report Card (SARC)

Dr. Laurie Goodman presented the school's annual SARC report.

Elizabeth Wagner questioned the school class sizes. Dr. Craig Wheaton and Dr. Laurie Goodman shared that some of the data, that streams straight from Data Quest, does not always align with the structure of the Independent Study format.

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter made a motion to approve the School Accountability Report Card (SARC).

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Discussion & Potential Action on Extended School Year (ESY)

Dr. Steven James presented the school's proposed ESY Plan.

Elizabeth Wagner inquired about the possibility of a long period between the end of ESY and the start of the new school year. Dr. James explained that ESY cannot be more than 20 days.

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the ESY plan/dates.

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Presentation & Potential Discussion of the School Dashboard

Dr. Damien Phillips presented the school's Dashboard, highlighting what the sections and graphs mean.

Sarah Sanchez asked for clarification if the STAR 360 assessments are reflected in the Dashboard. Dr. Phillips shared that only the state CAASPP Assessment results are included.

Dr. Craig Wheaton noted this is a modified Dashboard due to the Pandemic and not having year to year data. He also encouraged the school to dig deeper into the graduation rate as more than 1 out of 10 students are not graduating and he recommends that any measures under 90% should become a focus area. He stated the school is doing good work, but there is always room to grow.

Denise Voth shared that the school is working with each student and diligently follow up with 12th grade students that withdrawal before graduation.

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter inquired if there were any outliers in the Math and ELA results to see if there were specific groups that needed more support. The school will dig deeper into the data and bring back more information at a future Board meeting.

D. Discussion & Potential Action on the Suicide Prevention Policies Grades TK-7 & 8-12 Grades

Board Policy No. 5141.A & 5141.B

Steph Johnson presented the new Suicide Policies. She recognized Yolanda Vazquez for her work on these policies.

Dr. Craig Wheaton remarked that the policy is detailed, thorough, and useful.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the Suicide Prevention Policies Grades TK-7 & 8-12 Grades.

Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Operations

A. Discussion & Potential Action on the Revised Paid Sick Leave (PSL), Personal Necessity Leave (PNL), & Time Off Balances Policy Board Policy No. 4361

Steph Johnson presented the changes to the policy requesting that the Board consider approval with the same changes applied to the Regional Coordinator section and that the policy be approved retroactively to January 1, 2023.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the revised Paid Sick Leave (PSL), Personal Necessity Leave (PNL), & Time Off Balances Policy with the same changes applied to the Regional Coordinator section retroactively to January 1, 2023.

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Discussion & Potential Action on the Salary Change to AD-1 & Position Title Change from Virtual Academy Coordinator to Assistant Director of Virtual Elementary Education

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to table this agenda item.

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Discussion & Potential Action on the Salary Change to Director-1 & Position Title Change from Assistant Director of Special Education to Director of Student Support Services

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to table this agenda item.

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Discussion & Potential Action on the Enrollment & Staffing Projection Proposal

Steph Johnson presented the school's proposed enrollment and staffing projection proposal. The Board and Steph Johnson had a discussion about how the grade level parameters and waitlist works. The Board also inquired what would happen if a family with multiple students in different grade levels and how the parameters/waitlist work or don't work for them.

Elizabeth Wagner inquired if the school is doing more to retain 7th & 8th graders. Steph Johnson described the plans for the Middle School team with Amy Friesen.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the Enrollment & Staffing Projection Proposal. Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion. The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Discussion & Potential Action on the 2023-2024 School Calendar

Steph Johnson presented the drafted 2023-2024 School Calendar.

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar with the allowance to adjust the Learning Periods if needed.

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

VI. Governance

A. Presentation & Potential Discussion of the Board Metrics Report - January

Steph Johnson shared the current Board Metrics report. There were no requests for future presentations.

B. Discussion & Potential Action on the Superintendent Evaluation Process

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the

Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Presentation & Potential Discussion of the Superintendent & Deputy Director's Mid-Year School Goals Report

Steph Johnson gave a progress report on the current administrative goals and action plan.

D. Presentation & Potential Discussion on the Annual Form 700

The Board was provided with information about the Form 700 requirement.

E. Discussion & Potential Action on the Annual Board Meeting Calendar & 2022-2023 Board Meeting Calendar

Steph Johnson presented the proposed annual Board Meeting Calendar and the revised 2022-2023 Board Meeting Calendar.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the Annual Board Meeting Calendar & 2022-2023 Board Meeting Calendar.

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Discussion & Potential Action on the Board Meeting Teleconferencing Options

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Teleconferencing Options.
Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.
The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

VII. Closing Items

A. Board of Director Comments & Request

1. Budget Analysis: Financial presentation on strategic financial planning including cash vs. actual budget and ending fund balance vs. reserves.
2. Additional student testing data.

B. Announcement of the Next Scheduled Board Meeting

Regular: February 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM

C. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, Dr. Craig Wheaton adjourned the meeting at 7:17 PM.

VIII. Meeting Notes

A. Public Comment Rules: Members of the public may address the Board on agenda or non-agenda items through the teleconference platform, Zoom. Zoom does not require the members of the public to have an account or login. Please either utilize the chat option to communicate to the administrative team of your desire to address the Board or simply communicate orally your desire to address the Board when the Board asks for public comments. Speakers may be called in the order requests are received. Comments are limited to 2 minutes each, with no more than 15 minutes per single topic. If a member of the public utilizes a translator to address the Board, those individuals are allotted 4 minutes each. If the Board utilizes simultaneous translation equipment in a manner that allows the Board to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously, those individuals are allotted 2 minutes each. By law, the Board is allowed to take action only on items on the agenda. The Board may, at its discretion, refer a matter to school staff or calendar the issue for future discussion.

B. Note: The Governing Board encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the public meeting, please contact the Governing Board Office at (562) 758-0511 at least 48 hours before the scheduled board meeting so every reasonable effort can be made to accommodate you. (Government Code § 54954.2; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, § 202 (42 U.S.C. § 1213))

C. Note: Times listed on the agenda are estimates only and do not represent the actual time each agenda item will take place during the Board meeting. Similarly, the length of time noted for each of the agenda items also represents estimated duration, and not the actual length of time allocated for each.