

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

Directors Present: Dr. Sam Nofziger, Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter, Sarah Sanchez (In Person), & Dr. Craig Wheaton (Remote)

Directors Absent: None

Guests:

In Person - Dr. Laurie Goodman, Steph Johnson, Jenny Plumb, Dr. Steven James, Rhonda Deurksen

Remote - Brandon Chiapas, Joanna Fung, Maria Thoeni, Dr. Damien Phillips, Michelene Fitzgerald, Denise Voth, Amy Friesen, Lorraine Sewell, Jim Surmeian, & Kimmi Buzzard

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Dr. Sam Nofziger called the meeting of the Board of Directors of Monarch River Academy to order on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6:05 PM.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to allow Dr. Wheaton to attend the meeting remotely under Just Cause related to travel. Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter seconded the motion. The Board VOTED to approve the motion.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Sam Nofziger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter made a motion to approve the agenda.

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Public Comment

No public comment was made at this time.

F. Discussion & Potential Action to Approve the January 24, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the January 24, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Finance

A. Discussion & Potential Action on the January 2023 Financial Report

Jim Surmeian from Charter Impact presented the school's financial report through January 2023.

Dr. Nofziger asked for Mr. Surmeian's analysis of the school's fiscal health and interpretation of fiscal impacts from the state. Steph Johnson added that previously the school followed a growth model, which necessitated the sale of receivables. This practice is not likely to be needed in the future.

Dr Nofziger recognized the work of school leadership and Charter Impact that has resulted in the school's current state of strong fiscal health.

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter made a motion to approve the January 2023 Financial Report.

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Discussion & Potential Action on the Second Interim Report

Jim Surmeian presented the information on the school's Second Interim Report.

Dr. Sam Nofziger sought input from the Authorizer representatives.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the Second Interim Report.

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

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

Dr. Sam Nofziger noted Steph Johnson's correct title of Superintendent.

There were no Superintendent or Deputy Director Divvy transactions for the month of January.

D. Presentation & Potential Discussion of the 2021-2022 Audit

Dr. Laurie Goodman reported that the 2021-2022 audit was completed with no findings.

Elizabeth Wagner noted that there is reference to interest. Dr. Goodman clarified that interest was incurred last year, but not the current year.

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 audit.

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED to unanimously approve the motion.

E. Discussion & Potential Action on Auditor Selection for the 2022-2023 Audit

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve continuing to contract with Christy White's firm for the 2022-2023 audit.

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Academic Excellence

A. Discussion & Potential Action on the Educator Effectiveness Grant

Dr. Sam Nofziger noted that the school's job titles need to be updated in the grant plan.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the Educator Effectiveness Grant.

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Presentation & Potential Discussion on the New Art and Prop 28 Grant Plans

Dr. Damien Phillips provided an overview of two new grants, amounts, timelines, and how the funding can be utilized for school programs and staffing costs.

C. Invitation to the 2023 8th Grade Promotion & High School Graduation Ceremonies

Steph Johnson formally invited the School Board Members and Authorizer to the school's promotion and graduation ceremonies.

Elizabeth Wagner inquired if there was parent interest in a Kindergarten ceremony. Steph Johnson shared this request has not appeared in any parent feedback surveys or LCAP survey, though it will be considered for the future.

Elizabeth Wagner requested a report on student enrollment by city.

IV. Operations

A. Discussion & Potential Action on the Updated Comprehensive Safety Plan

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the updated Comprehensive Safety Plan

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Presentation & Potential Discussion of the 2023-2024 Organizational Chart

Steph Johnson shared the vision and rationale for how the school has designed the organizational structure for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board recommends adding names and contact information for each position.

C. Discussion & Potential Action on the Proposal for New Positions

Dr. Craig Wheaton made a motion to approve the proposal for new positions.

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

1. Curriculum & Instruction Lead Teacher

Maria Thoeni presented the purpose and job duties of this new position open to current staff to serve all elementary grade levels and subject areas. The position would serve staff and parents/guardians and then provide support and expertise from TK through High School.

Jenny Plumb shared that this position was piloted this year for TK with much success.

Elizabeth Wagner noted that the requirement to hold a valid California Teaching Credential should be added. Steph Johnson confirmed that would be a requirement.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the Curriculum & Instruction Lead Teacher position.

Dr. Craig Wheaton seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

2. Special Day Class Program Coordinator

Jenny Plumb presented the purpose and rational for the need. The position would ensure that all students have opportunities to engage in Virtual Academy.

Dr. Steven James added background that led to this position to ensure students participating in Special Education have access to the same opportunities as their peers. This Coordinator would also be documenting participation.

Kristina Emig shared that based on parent/guardian input from Mod/Severe student population want opportunities for socialization and skill development.

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter asked about the Coordinators role in identifying staff/vendors to provide instruction.

Sarah Sanchez asked about how the classes will be grouped. Dr. James shared their age level peers will be grouped together.

Elizabeth Wagner requested phrasing to be added to the job description that this is a virtual SDC class.

Elizabeth Wagner made a motion to approve the SDC Program Coordinator position with the addition of clarifying language that the instruction is virtual.

Sarah Sanchez seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

3. Community Arts Educator

Micheline Fitzgerald presented the purpose and funding source for the new Community Arts Educator positions. The school anticipates four positions for Monarch River and six for Yosemite Valley. Stakeholder feedback indicated a desire for more educational field trips with a focus on enrichment and socialization.

Dr. Sam Nofziger shared perspective that even if there is funding and a desire to develop a program, selecting the appropriate person for a given position is essential.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the Community Arts Educator position with the addition of including the requirement to hold a valid California Teaching Credential and or appropriate certification for the area of expertise.

Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter seconded the motion.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Governance

A. Presentation & Potential Discussion of the Board Metrics Report for February

Steph Johnson presented the Board Metrics Report for February.

Elizabeth Wagner called attention to the EL feedback and asked what changes to the program are planned. Maria Thoeni shared that the EL Coordinator, Kelly Pettit, is looking forward to include more engaging activities to meet the needs and increase interest in EL support activities. Jenny Plumb added that the Accelerated Learning Launchpad will increase the number of instructional sessions and inclusive of all students including those participating in the school's EL program.

B. Discussion & Potential Action on the Board Meeting Calendar: Changing the May 23, 2023 Meeting to May 9, 2023

Dr. Laurie Goodman shared the reason for the request to change the Board Meeting date for May to allow the Board the opportunity to review and consider the CharterSAFE insurance proposal in advance of Open Enrollment. This will also allow the Board additional time to consider school programs and LCAP proposal.

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to approve the change to the May Board Meeting date.
Elizabeth Wagner seconded the motion.
The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

VI. Closing Items

A. Board of Director Comments & Requests

1. Elizabeth Wagner requested a report on student enrollment by city.
2. Possibly include the school structure as a future agenda item should the Board wish to discuss further.
3. Sarah Sanchez asked for clarification on the remote meeting options and what happens if quorum cannot be attained.

B. Announcement of the Next Scheduled Board Meeting

1. Regular: May 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM

C. Adjourn Meeting

Sarah Sanchez made a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:50 PM. Dr. Monique Ouwinga-DeRuiter seconded the motion. The board VOTED to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

VII. 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.