



## MICS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 05-09-2022

**Attendees:** Kelly Dempsey, Laura Jung, Greg Snelson, Rich Zinno, Eric Laforce, Kevin Wiley, Glenn Byrum, Kim Leppert, Kelly Loving (remote).

Quorum Status: Yes

- I. Call to Order: 5:35PM
- II. Approval of minutes:
  - a. April Board meeting minutes- Laura motion to approve, Kim 2<sup>nd</sup>- all in favor- Approved.
- III. Public Comment: Victoria Koester
- IV. School Report:
  - a. MICS was represented at the annual North Carolina Association of Federal Education Program Administrators conference where Kristi Nemec, K-12 Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Assessment, delivered a session geared towards supporting new federal program administrators in charter schools. Presentation went over very well and resulted in an invitation by NCDPI to present on federal program administration at the New Charter School Institute in Raleigh this summer.
  - b. Athletics: Last month we presented our proposal to NCHSAA -with the consensus of seven schools- to adjust the 2.5.7 rule surrounding the disciplinary actions. The adjustments recommended/suggested will prevent or reduce entire teams from receiving exclusions from postseason competition due to individual ejections.
    1. The NCHSAA Board met April 26-27.
    2. They NCHSAA is going through changes and revisions- they will no longer be able to fine schools
    3. Due to the organizational changes, our proposal wasn't heard at the last meeting. They did not provide a date for when our proposal will be reviewed.
  - c. New Hires: one new hire to fill the school health officer role. Laura Motion, Kevin D 2<sup>nd</sup> all in favor approved.
  - d. School Graduation: ED extends an offer to the MICS Board of Directors to attend this year's 2022 graduation.
  - e. Enrollment and Student Attrition Report: Enrollment remains steady. There was unenrollment of one student in sixth grade. For 2022-2023, we are on target to have a total enrollment of 1,701, our total target is 1,697. Wait list for next year 1704.
  - f. Health and Safety Report:
    - No updates to the Strong Schools toolkit since March 4<sup>th</sup>. We have had 12 positive cases since the last board meeting (one staff, 11 students).
  - g. Stakeholder Surveys: School is looking to make adjustments to the surveys to 1) increase privacy; 2) increase the number of families that complete the survey. Therefore, the ED is looking to set up a 3rd party survey company to increase our surveys.
  - h. Review of Face Covering Policy ED recommends making no changes and to keep masks optional. Rich motion to approve, Kim second, all in favor- Approved.
- V. Committee Reports
  - a. Governance:
    - i. **Local Wellness Policy** - the school underwent a review of its nutrition program by NCDPI and in

connection with that review NCDPI requested a few edits to the Wellness Policy. These changes would require all food and beverages sold or marketed to students at the school to comply with the Smart Snacks in School standards and state food regulations. They would also require a review of the policy (and the school's compliance with the policy) every 3 years, with the results to be shared publicly. NCDPI has already approved these edits and they were approved unanimously by the Governance Committee. Motion to approve- Laura, Eric 2<sup>nd</sup>, - all in favor- Approved.

- ii. **Lease/Facility Rental Agreement-** In connection with SOAR's review of various policies, the school's attorney reviewed and updated our lease agreement. The changes are largely clarifying and clean-up changes. Governance unanimously recommends approval. Greg motion to approve, Kim 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor- Approved.
- iii. **Dress Code Policy-** Administration requested an amendment to the dress code to permit athletic pants purchased through the Raptor Wearhouse, MICS-approved spirit packs or athletic teams to be worn on campus. Governance modified the approach to allow these items (specifically excluding shorts) on Fridays as a way of testing this next school year. These items would be permitted on Fridays in the high school unless administration determines otherwise or unless a student is required to wear professional dress because of participation in a sporting event or organization. Students in the middle school could wear these items with a dress-down pass. Governance unanimously supports approval of the policy, and the administration has signed off on Governance's latest version. Laura motion to approve, Kim 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor- approved.

b. Finance:

- i. Finance to meet on June 3rd at 8 am to review the final budget and approve it before bringing it to the full board on June 13th. All new members with an interest in the Finance committee are welcome.
- ii. Finance will also review vendor contracts, rentals, and transportation
- iii. Quarterly bond information has been filed for Q3

a. HR: Team did not meet this month but will schedule a meeting- targeting May 20<sup>th</sup>.

b. Academics:

- i. Academic committee met on 4/13. The committee members and administrative staff reviewed Winter testing results for the Elementary, Middle and High schools. Also reviewed the upcoming testing calendar. Overall, MICS continues to perform very well academically with all the challenges presented by the last two years. Administration has confirmed the interventionists previously approved by the board have made a significant difference. We are also hearing staff morale is very positive but as expected, some fatigue is starting to set in as we approach the end of another challenging year. The committee is pleased with the Winter testing results and administration plans to address areas needing improvement. The detailed longitudinal spreadsheet with historical testing data is located on the shared drive.
- ii. **Reading:** For most grades, MICS scored significantly higher than the state and national averages where data is available. Middle school proficiency is at or above 80% in grades 6-8.
- iii. **Math:** MICS has performed better than most schools due to our higher percentage of students being on-site versus learning remotely. We have stayed relatively consistent with our pre-covid results with some areas showing significant improvement. Across the state, middle school math scores have suffered the most over the past two years to the point where the state is developing a middle school math intervention program to be delivered to schools.
- iv. **Science:** The Science program continues to be a strength at MICS. 5th grade has performed a little lower than last year but 8th grade and Biology have performed well.
- v. ED recommends that the committee meet in mid-July to look at final year outcomes.

b. SOAR:

- i. Administration met with SOAR and PTO to discuss promoting new and different ways of fundraising.
- ii. SOAR will be meeting Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm where we will see an update on the Rebate Analysis and Capital Needs Assessment
- iii. We have a strong transition plan to continue all the sports sponsorships, once Doug Lamkin leaves us. Tim McGinnis is taking over this role.

b. Operations & Development Committee: Committee met on April 26

- i. Reviewed three School Improvement Plans- Elementary, Middle-High School and District.

- ii. The School is using NCStar to capture the plans. State has highlighted that MICS using this tool is one of the first charter schools- very positive feedback. NCStar is a web-based tool that guides a district or school team in charting its improvement and managing the continuous improvement process. NCStar builds accountability as well as helps schools track their improvement plans
- iii. Showed that we are making good progress on accomplishing Goals set out initially in October
- iv. Elementary had- three overarching goals, Upper school had six overarching goals.
- v. Middle/High school SIP contains less specificity and tactics when compared to Elementary SIP. We are in year one of what will likely be a three year growth process for School Improvement Planning with Middle/High school
- vi. Glenn was involved in the Goal Setting- the committees and improvement teams developed the strategy
- vii. Will need to put a schedule in place to more institutionalize the Improvement Plan- this will drive more accountability.
- viii. Goals will begin to be set in summer based on academic and stakeholder survey outcomes.
- ix. The Committee will be using the beginning of July/August to review stakeholder survey data, then Sept / October review to ensure data and systemic items are taken into SIPs.
  - x. The goals should be finalized by the end of October.
  - xi. Recommend moving Stakeholder survey data to Committee vs. presenting at entire Board retreat.
  - xii. The Ops & Dev committee discussed and requested that they put a more formal agenda and structure into the board retreat.
- xiii. Discussed the need to have each committee prepare a detailed list of their annual to-do's and a corresponding calendar for when the work has been historically started and completed over the course of the academic year. It would also be helpful if we could have a list of goals or long term projects as well with the corresponding timelines that each committee is working on. This will ensure we capture some of the institutional knowledge before Greg and Laura leave and also continue to define the scope and structure of our committees.
- xiv. Action: Ask the chairs of each committee to get this work completed in May. Committee will assemble the results and share with the full board. (great training tool for our new members).

Next Board Meeting: 6/13/2022

Adjournment: 7:06pm