



MICS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 1-13-2025

Attendees: Glenn Byrum, Eric LaForce, Garret Tryon, Kim Leppert, Dawne Dowdy, Kelly Dempsey, Kevin Wiley, Mike Ladd, Stephanie Sherer (by phone), Rodward Hewlin (by phone), Alan Vanevenhoven, Erica Blackson

Quorum Status: YES

- I. Call to Order: Kevin called the meeting to order at 5:39 pm
- II. Approval of minutes: Mike Ladd moved to approve; Eric seconded the motion – all in favor. December minutes were approved.
- III. Public Comment: N/A
- IV. School Report:
 - a. Program Highlights – Pep rally was held which included a reveal and celebration of Dr. Wilson as the NC Charter Principal of the Year; and Ms. Phillips was NC Charter Teacher of the Year! Competition now has moved to statewide platform for Teacher of the Year and the Principal of the Year – look for news in April as to the next round.
 - b. Student Enrollment/Lottery and Attrition Reports – holding steady at 1,769 students, 1,085 applicants for the lottery for approximately 150-200 anticipated seats available in the coming school year. Anticipated to land around 1,800 applicants by end of lottery session, per prior year trends. Five households disenrolled – two programmatic, two choice, and one geographic
 - c. School Nutrition Program Update – Breakfast participation is tracking similar to last year. 160 breakfasts served each day. For lunch, 383 lunches daily average at this point last year and now 447 lunches served today (17% increase). Hope to add ice cream service to MS and HS service soon. The increased demand has slowed this roll out – new staff is now on board and kitchen is fully staffed.
 - d. ACTION ITEM: Internet Safety Parent/Student Handbook Addendum – Kelly asked question about the definition of minor as contained in the draft. Subject to that outstanding question, Eric moved to approve, Erica seconded the motion, all in favor to approve subject to the review & clarification by school legal counsel.
- V. 2025-2026 Board of Directors Positions – MICS received 22 applications. Kelly and Glenn suggest that the Board authorize the interview of 7 identified applicants on January 21 and 28 from 6-8 pm. We will proceed as discussed.
- VI. Committee Reports:
 - a. Finance: Committee met last week to review 403b plan; still waiting for NC state budget to be approved by State – 403B review revealed:

- i. 403b plan had a good year, going from \$3.3 million last year to \$4.4 million this year.
 - ii. Reached a new plan threshold, achieving the highest threshold for cost reduction on administrative fees. The fees are now at 0.95 percent.
 - iii. The plan has been moved to Voya from OneAmerica, but there will be no impact to participants. This has been communicated with the participants.
 - iv. There is still no guidance on SecureAct 2.0 and the necessary regulations or compliance updates.
- b. Governance: no report aside from preview that Title IX policies will require revision to handbook, reverting to 2020 version due to federal court order; requires action at February Board meeting
- c. HR: No report
- d. Academics: No report
- e. SOAR: New membership has infused the SOAR committee with new ideas – new sponsorship will roll out soon, new 5K fun run fundraiser idea to be evaluated; silent auction will be offsite at Muddy River Distillery with pulled pork BBQ dinner (March 21); finances are strong and on track. Buses are still working well with no changes needed.
- f. Strategic Planning: Committee met in December, and will meet again this Friday the 17th to make more clear goals/objectives to give to Glenn and then review at a February board retreat.

Closed Session:

North Carolina Open Meeting Statute – Closed session section 143-318.11 (6)

Erica moved to go into closed session, Eric seconded, and all approved – Closed session at 6:39 pm

Erica moved to come out of closed session, Eric seconded, and all approved – Closed session ended at 6:41 pm

Erica moved to approve Andrea Ihle hiring, Eric seconded, and all approved – New hire was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Next Board Meeting: 2-10-25