



**Thomas MacLaren School
Board of Directors Meeting
January 25, 2024**

APPROVED

The meeting took place in Room #304 at Thomas MacLaren School, 1702 N. Murray Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80915.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order** Mrs. Sherman called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.
 - A. Roll Call: Mrs. Meredith Wardwell Sherman, Mrs. Katherine Brophy, Mrs. Carol Neel, Mrs. Khristine Prickett Vadala, and Mr. Dan Cooper. Mrs. Purvi Sittner, and Mrs. Carol Neel attended virtually. Mrs. Dawn Conley was absent. *Also Present:* Mrs. Mary Faith Hall, Executive Director, Mrs. Bridget Rector, Assistant Head of Upper School, Ms. Katie Maslow, Assistant Head of Upper School, Ms. Laura Schlichting, Assistant Head of Lower School, Mr. Cole Hensley, Upper School Faculty, Mrs. Kari Coleman, Chief of Staff, Mrs. Laura Hassell, Director of Operations, and Mr. Eric Hall, Founder. Mr. Ben LaBadie, Head of Upper School, arrived just after roll call. Dr. Marvin Lee, guest, arrived during the Student Performance Presentation.
 - B. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
 - C. Approval of Agenda: Mrs. Sherman moved to adjust the agenda, beginning with the Student Performance Presentation. Mrs. Hall asked to move discussion of Packet Item K to next month's Board meeting. Mrs. Vadala motioned approval; Mrs. Brophy seconded. There was unanimous approval.
 - D. Approval of October Special Meeting, December, and January Special Meeting Minutes: Mrs. Brophy mentioned she has minor edits she will send to Mrs. Hall. Pending those minor changes, Mrs. Vadala motioned approval; Mr. Cooper seconded. There was unanimous approval.
- II. Student Performance**
 - A. MATLAB Presentation: Mr. Hensley gave a summary of MacLaren's MATLAB course, taken by all students in their junior year. Mr. Hensley indicated he loves that all students take the course, as it brings access to the field of computer science to students who might not otherwise opt in. Through the programming language of MATLAB, students learn logic, problem solving, data manipulation, and create their own functions. The course culminates in a final project which allows students to connect their interests to computer science. Mr. Hensley provided examples of student final projects, including image manipulation, game design, and music creation. Mrs. Brophy made congratulatory comments.
- III. Board Training and Development**
 - A. Board nomination: Mrs. Sherman motioned to appoint Dr. Lee to the Board. Mrs. Brophy made introductory comments. Dr. Lee introduced his professional background, care for the Colorado Springs community, and interest in education. Mrs. Vadala motioned approval; Mrs. Brophy seconded. There was unanimous approval.
 - B. Oath of Office for new Board members: Mrs. Sherman administered an oath of office. Mr. Cooper and Dr. Lee took that oath.

IV. Status Reports

- A. E.D. Report: Mrs. Hall gave an update on Project Days, Project Week, Evaluation Conferences, snow days, Information Night, and the timing of the enrollment lottery. She mentioned the school is implementing new retention strategies and the fifth grade performed at the Colorado Music Education Association Conference. Mrs. Vadala asked about letter of intent numbers. Mrs. Hall responded.
- B. Dashboard: Mrs. Hall indicated current letter of intent trends are on pace with the previous year. Mrs. Brophy, Mrs. Vadala, and Mr. Cooper asked clarifying questions about the goals surrounding student demographics and the lottery process. Mrs. Hall responded and summarized MacLaren's enrollment policy.
- C. Finance Committee: Mrs. Sittner provided a review of December financials and noted that there are no significant changes. She highlighted adjustment to some budget line items to reflect staffing levels and the timing of facility improvement projects. The increased PPR revenue and some reduced expense categories are reflected in the cash-on-hand and debt-income ratio figures.

V. Policy Review and Accountability

- A. Approve Revised Budget: Mrs. Sittner and Mrs. Hall explained the revised 2023-2024 budget. Dr. Lee motioned approval and read the resolution:

MOTION: The Board of Directors approve this amended budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024 on January 25, 2024 in the amounts of: \$12,978,478 for expenditures, \$389,354 for TABOR reserves, \$90,000 for SPED reserves, and \$1,000,000 for Facility reserves are appropriated for the 2023-2024 budget. The Board appropriates up to \$1,090,000 to be transferred from the fund balance for facility projects and Special Education needs.

Mrs. Sherman seconded. There was unanimous approval.

Mr. Cooper motioned approval and read the appropriation resolution to approve budget item H:

MOTION: Be it resolved by the Board of Education of Thomas MacLaren State Charter School in El Paso County, that the amounts shown in the following schedule be appropriated to each fund as specified in the Adopted Budget for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 – In the General Fund \$12,978,478.

Mrs. Brophy seconded. There was unanimous approval.

- B. Approve Strategic Plan 2023-24: Mrs. Hall explained minor changes to the strategic plan intended to streamline goals and reduce duplication. Mrs. Neel motioned approval; Mrs. Sittner seconded. There was unanimous approval.
- C. Approve Revised Employee Handbook: Mrs. Coleman highlighted minor changes to reflect legislative changes. Mrs. Vadala motioned approval; Mr. Cooper seconded. There was unanimous approval.
- D. Designation of Official Posting Location for Board Agendas and Notices: MacLaren will continue posting Board agendas and notices on its website and school corkboard. Mrs. Brophy motioned approval; Mrs. Sherman seconded. There was unanimous approval.

VI. Public Hearing re: Student Data Breach/Illuminate: A public hearing was held on this vendor data breach, which affected many school districts nationwide. Mrs. Hall indicated that the school followed its data security policy and notified parents. No personally identifying information was revealed in the breach. Staff recommends to the Board that bids from other vendors be solicited, according to its standard vendor solicitation process. Mr. Cooper and Mrs. Vadala asked clarifying questions. Mrs. Hall responded. There was no public comment.

VII. Policy Review

- A. Approve D11 Contract: Mrs. Hall indicated the Board reviewed the D11 contract which provides access to increased resources while preserving MacLaren's autonomy. Mrs. Hall shared that the D11 Board unanimously approved the contract. She communicated to the Board that she found the D11 staff and Board very good to work with and is confident MacLaren is entering into a great partnership. Mrs. Sherman applauded Mrs. Hall's negotiation efforts on MacLaren's behalf. Mrs. Brophy motioned to approve the contract; Mrs. Vadala seconded. There was unanimous approval. Mrs. Hall thanked her leadership team for its review. Mrs. Vadala made comments on messaging to parents and referencing school choice. Mrs. Brophy and Mrs. Hassell asked about D11's plans to announce the partnership. Mrs. Hall indicated the contract is public.
- B. Mr. Cooper motioned to move to Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and instructing negotiators under CRS 24-6-402(4)(e)(I). Mrs. Brophy seconded. There was unanimous approval. All in attendance were invited to join the Board. Executive session began at 5:11 p.m. A motion to exit Executive Session was made by Mr. Cooper; Dr. Lee seconded. The Board came out of Executive Session at 5:15 p.m. Regular session resumed at 5:15 p.m.

VIII. Announcements

- A. February Board meeting scheduled for February 22, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

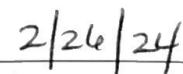
IX. Adjourn

- A. Mrs. Brophy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mrs. Vadala seconded. There was unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. Mrs. Brophy brought refreshments to celebrate the new contract with D11.

Respectfully submitted by:



Julie Divine, Minutes Recorder



Date