



MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Mr. Leo Pacheco, Chairman of the Board
SECRETARY	Mrs. Debbie Hart, Secretary Protempore
ATTENDEES	Mr. Leo Pacheco, Mrs. Debbie Hart, Dr. William Murry, Mrs. Nneka Nwakoby, Mrs. Corrin Collier Mrs. Teecy Matthews
NOT IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs. Kelly Thompson
ATTENDING GUESTS	Mr. Don Schroeder

AGENDA ITEM 1

AGENDA ITEM:	PRESENTER(S):
Verification of Quorum and Opening Statement	Mr. Leo Pacheco
DISCUSSION: Chairman Pacheco verified quorum and opened the meeting by stating the Minutes from the previous board meeting, dated June 6, 2019, was approved by the majority via electronic mail on August 15, 2019 in order to meet the deadline request of our third-party auditors, Purvis Grey and Associates.	
MOTION:	RESULT:
NONE	

AGENDA ITEM 2

AGENDA ITEM:	PRESENTER(S):
Approval of Current Agenda	Mr. Leo Pacheco
DISCUSSION:	
MOTION:	RESULT:
A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. MURRY AND SECONDED BY MRS. NWAKOBY TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.	The motion was carried unanimously and approved.

AGENDA ITEM 3

AGENDA ITEM:	PRESENTER(S):
Executive Director’s Report	Mrs. Teecy Matthews
DISCUSSION:	
<p>Mrs. Matthews presented the new School Improvement Plan, required by the Florida Department of Education (FLDoE), stating that the school added another teacher and additional material resources to help continue improvement. The new plan puts more emphasis on Math and Reading – two areas that show sign for improvement among students. She mentioned that the school added Algebra back to the curriculum to help students prepare for high school.</p>	
<p>Mr. Schroeder, a guest and parent of a current student, expressed how his daughter joined OCMS due to her lack of confidence and struggling math issues in her previous school. And since coming to OCMS, she has participated in our intensive math program, and is doing much better.</p>	
<p>Mrs. Matthews presented the Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP) for 2019-20, with the goal to keep open communication with parents. She reiterated that parents are the “first line of defense” in their child’s education, and she wanted to educate parents on what they can do at home to help support their child’s academic achievement.</p>	
<p>Part of the plan includes increasing parent open houses, and educating parents of elementary grads entering the 6th grade on what it looks like to be a parent of a middle schooler, including the physical, emotional, intellectual, and academic changes they will encounter.</p>	
<p>Following the vote to approve, Mrs. Matthews reviewed the 2018-19 school year. She pointed out that the school maintained their “C” grade with the state that was achieved the previous year, based on Florida assessments. She shared that the math scores were low, primarily because new students are showing a lack of math proficiency and they often spend the year “catching up.” However, with a focus on intensive math, she hopes there will be a significant increase in math proficiency this year.</p>	
<p>Mrs. Matthews shared that despite the challenges in math, OCMS placed first in the county for 7th grade Language Arts and second highest in the county for 7th grade Civics.</p>	
<p>Mrs. Matthews announced the school received recognition funds, again this year, which is left to the staff to determine distribution, but must be approved by the Board. The staff chose to split the funds between staff bonuses and the purchase of more technology equipment.</p>	
MOTION:	RESULT:
<p>A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. MURRY TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE NEW SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN; THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MRS. HART.</p>	<p>The motion was accepted and carried unanimously.</p>
<p>A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. MURRY TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN; THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MRS. HART.</p>	<p>The motion was accepted and carried unanimously.</p>
<p>A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. MURRY TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE SCHOOL RECOGNITION FUND DISBURSEMENTS; THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MRS. HART.</p>	<p>The motion was accepted and carried unanimously.</p>

AGENDA ITEM 4

AGENDA ITEM:		PRESENTER(S):
Treasurer's Report		Dr. William Murry
DISCUSSION:		
Dr. Murry delivered the Treasurer's Report and gave a brief overview, but reinforced the school is on solid financial ground.		
MOTION:		RESULT:
A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. NWAKOBY TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MRS. HART.		The motion was accepted and carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5

AGENDA ITEM:		PRESENTER(S):
Charter Non-Profit Associations		Mr. Leo Pacheco
DISCUSSION:		
<p>Mr. Pacheco returned to previous Board discussions about joining a non-profit and/or charter association, but reiterated that the decision was tabled due to lack of funds previously. He shared the benefits of belonging to both and recommended the Board consider joining one of two non-profit associations and a charter association, and stated their membership fees are usually around \$150-\$200 per annum.</p> <p>Mrs. Matthews agreed, and shared that by joining these associations, it gives us a voice and allows us to be part of the conversation in both arenas, while providing growth opportunities and professional development for staff. When asked if there were any disadvantages to being a part of associations, Mrs. Matthews shared that there were no disadvantages, and stated that as we take the school to a higher level, we are ready to be part of something bigger, and by joining associations would work to our advantage.</p> <p>Mr. Pacheco said he and Mrs. Matthews would work on identifying which associations would best serve the needs of the organization and make recommendations at a future board meeting.</p>		
MOTION:		RESULT:
NONE		

AGENDA ITEM 6

AGENDA ITEM:		PRESENTER(S):
District Mental Health Plan		Mrs. Matthews
DISCUSSION:		
Mrs. Matthews requested approval to renew our option with the District Mental Health Plan, which would basically leave our state allocated mental health funds with the school district and they would provide mental health resources through their program to our school.		
MOTION:		RESULT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. NWAKOBY TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE RENEWAL TO THE MENTAL HEALTH PLAN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DR. MURRY.	The motion was accepted and carried unanimously.
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AGENDA ITEM 7

AGENDA ITEM:	PRESENTER(S):
Teacher Appreciation	Mrs. Teecy Matthews
DISCUSSION:	
<p>Mrs. Matthews posted a request to her personal network, requesting “adopt-a-teacher” volunteers. These volunteers would offer to pray for our staff – specifically the adopted teacher, write occasional “thank you” notes, and send small gifts such as baskets, gift cards, classroom supplies, appreciation gifts, etc. on an anonymous basis – like a “Secret Santa” but all year long just to encourage teachers and recognize their hard work. To date, all teachers are adopted and the program is having tremendous success and interest.</p> <p>Mr. Pacheco brought up the prior board approval of \$2,500 to be included as a line item on our operating budget, earmarked for such things as this. The Board agreed to provide funding for a Christmas party and gifts for the staff, which will include motivational merchandise and gift cards for the holidays. After minimal discussion, the Board agreed.</p>	
MOTION:	RESULT:
NONE	

AGENDA ITEM 8

AGENDA ITEM:	PRESENTER(S):
Annual Bunco Fundraiser	Mrs. Teecy Matthews
DISCUSSION:	
<p>March 27, 2020 will be our annual Bunco fundraiser and Mrs. Matthews has already made arrangements for food at cost. She requested items for prize baskets such as theme park tickets, etc. that have value and can be used for silent auction. She mentioned the venue has changed and this event will be held at the Florida Police Organization.</p>	
MOTION:	RESULT:
NONE	

AGENDA ITEM 9

AGENDA ITEM:	PRESENTER(S):
PAT Group	Mrs. Corrin Collier
DISCUSSION:	
<p>Mrs. Collier updated the board on our Parent Group, sharing that they have had two meetings thus far with about six parents participating. She said they will focus primarily on team-building skills, organizing events for students, and were thinking of doing a bonfire, Christmas caroling, volunteering/community participation activities such as working at an animal shelter, etc.</p>	

She shared that they have a “Wishing Tree” where teachers can post wishes they would like (such as supplies) for their classrooms. The PAT group coordinates efforts with other parents to fulfil those requests.

Spirit shirts and a possible dance are being looked at for future fundraising and parent engagement activities. They are using the tagline – “Keeping the Magic in Middle School.”

MOTION:

RESULT:

NONE

AGENDA ITEM 11

AGENDA ITEM:

PRESENTER(S):

Facilities

Mr. Leo Pacheco & Mrs. Teecy Matthews

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Pacheco and Mrs. Matthews each shared details about our ongoing search for facilities in light of the fact the current lease expires shortly after the first of the year in 2021, so time is of the essence in locating a facility now in order to have time for any cleanup, construction, rehab, or build-out necessary to be ready in time for the 2021-22 school year.

They have identified a couple properties they are checking into, including a 24,000 sq foot building in Anthony, FL that is currently for sale at \$990K, but the realtor stated the owners would be open to a long-term lease of 10 yrs or longer. The drawback to the property is it is northeast of Ocala, which would take us out of our current territory and possibly increase transportation costs and include loss of several current students due to distance.

Mr. Pacheco shared there are other alternatives including third-party funding sources such as Building Hope and Charter Capital, which are both organizations that specifically support new or growing charter schools by purchasing property and leasing the property back to the school – similar to rent-to-own or lease-option contracts.

Mr. Don Schroeder shared he knew successful business owners who may be interested in investing in the school through large capital funding, sponsorships, or donations to assist in facilities.

Mr. Pacheco stated that he felt strongly we are at a place where we should employ the services of an attorney who specializes in real estate contracts and lease negotiations. Mrs. Matthews and Mrs. Nwakoby agreed. Mr. Pacheco said he would conduct the search for attorneys and make recommendations to the Board.

MOTION:

RESULT:

NONE

AGENDA ITEM 12

AGENDA ITEM:

PRESENTER(S):

Board Nominations

Mr. Leo Pacheco

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Pacheco announced that two people have expressed interest in joining our Board of Trustees, and he presented their resumes to the Board for review and input.

The first nominee is Mrs. Elizabeth (Liz) Stephan, who has extensive background in business and law. She has a B.A. in Liberal Arts and a J.D. in Law, currently lives in Ocala, and is well versed in accounting and business.

The second nominee is Mrs. Susan Kile, who has an extensive background in finance, having served as the CFO or Comptroller for several corporations. She currently lives in The Villages, and has a BSA in Finance and Economics, as well as a MSA in Operations and Finance. Mrs. Kile also has extensive background in grant-writing and is very familiar with the grant process, having recently won a \$500K government grant for a recent employer.

Mr. Don Schroeder expressed that he would be submitting his resume for consideration, as well.

The Board agreed to invite the candidates to the next board meeting for further review, interviewing, and official nomination. Chairman Pacheco said he would contact them and extend the invitation.

Dr. Murry, whose term expires in 2020, expressed interest in staying on the Board past the first of the year (when he thought his term expired) in order to work with new board members in preparing to take over the Treasurer role. Chairman Pacheco shared with him that in a prior board meeting two years ago, the terms were extended to end at the end of the fiscal year, so his official term would end June 30, 2020, which would leave him plenty of time to work with a new board member to fill the role of Treasurer. Dr. Murry was relieved to know he would have more time, and will continue to serve in the capacity of the Treasurer until then.

MOTION:	RESULT:
NONE	

ANNOUNCEMENTS	
	None

NEXT MEETING SET FOR	Thursday, February 13, 2020 – 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Location TBD
ADJOURNMENT	A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Hart, Seconded by Mrs. Nwakoby. The meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM.