



MEETING MINUTES
Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy
Public Board Meeting
June 14, 2022
7:00 PM

OPEN SESSION

Start Time: 7:05pm

End Time: 11:05pm

Members Present: Cynthia Shumway (7:50pm), Steve Whitehouse, Paul Bingham, Jason Dodge, Janine See

Members Absent: Sandra Russell, Paul Stancil

Staff Present: Robyn Ellis, Jared Norris, Casey Holmes, Paul Barlow, Jonathan Harmon, Stephanie Slade, Sandra Houghton, Sarah Peterson, Jessica Kember, Dana Steinhorst, Katherine Chapman, Sandra Sorenson

Steve Whitehouse called the meeting to order at 7:08pm

BOARD BUSINESS

- It was determined that a quorum was present.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.
- **MOTION:** Cynthia Shumway moved to approve minutes from May 10th, 2022. Paul Bingham seconded. The motion passed. Janine See abstained.
- Next meeting will be held on August 9th, 2022 7:00pm in the Library.

DIRECTORS REPORT–Robyn Ellis

-Retirement of Paul Barlow: Dr. Barlow was presented with a gift by the administration and board for his many year of service at Maeser. Dr. Barlow has been at Maeser for 12 years. He considered it a highlight of his life. He loves Maeser and what it stands for. He loves the students and all the hard work of the students. He believes in classical education and appreciates that Maeser sticks the course with classical education. His health requires that he retires at this time. He will be greatly missed.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS-Department Heads

-Jonathan Harmon (Languages): Chinese was brought back this year and ACL started this year by popular demand. We were able to find a replacement for our Chinese teacher who is moving. ELL students will be moving classes and not being combined with the foreign exchange students. Concurrent Enrollment Latin through Utah State has been a positive experience. The one concern the department has with foreign languages coming and going by demand and availability, they are worried about the workload as those could potentially change. There was a discussion about bringing back French as a foreign language and the interest of the students. The board will discuss the information they have been given.

-Stephanie Slade (Sciences): The Robotics Team has done really well this year and it will continue next year. The cohesiveness of the department has been really good this year. They were able to offer concurrent enrollment Biology and Chemistry as well as AP Bio and Chem.

-Sandra Haughton (Fine Arts): The department felt they struggled in the school year of 2020-2021 with a little bit of an identity crisis during the pandemic but they feel those feelings have been resolved this school year. She feels the fine arts play a really big part of Maeser's classical curriculum. She named some students who have won awards this year at the Shakespeare Festival. She expressed that she feels the teachers of the department practice what they preach and are in community shows, plays and other community events. They are going to try out some new curriculum in the coming school year. They have some goals to have an art show in December and at the end of the year. They would like to have more collaboration with other departments and bring different forms of art into other subjects.

-Sarah Peterson (Socratic): Marlee Goodrich will be rejoining the Socratic department again and they are all very excited. Sarah shared that writing has been a big goal of the department as a whole. They have created a rubric that all teachers use across each grade to help collect data per grade. They plan to refine those rubrics this next year. They will continue to use The Institute for Excellence in Writing in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grade. They feel it is helpful for the younger learners. The 10th, 11th, and 12th grade teachers are creating Maeser's own writing curriculum. The department is a little bit concerned about the backlash they will get from talking about some of the subject matter they teach because of the political nature of their subject. Their biggest goal is to continue improving their writing instruction. Steve asked that she elaborate on the department's concerns for possible backlash. Sarah responded that Critical Race Theory is kind of the buzz word right now. She feels teachers in general are hesitant to teach openly with the fear of consequences in their words due to this Critical Race Theory. Robyn responded that she feels that's why they chose to stick to the Classical Education system because she feels sticking to the classics can help the Maeser community avoid any possible backlash.

-Jessica Kemper (PE/Health): They've gotten some feedback that the parents appreciate how active the kids are at school. Weight training has been a really popular class. Fitness for Life this year were really successful. Zumba was also a great class this year. They have a concern with space. They are wondering if there is a way to get some more grass, if a gym isn't going to happen soon, so that they can have a second space for PE. The department also asked if they could possibly use the stage as a weight room. Because the weight lifting class is becoming so popular, they are wondering if there is anyway to expand the space in which they do that class. Steve asked how they, as a department, evaluate the effectiveness of their health classes. Jessica mentioned they feel the best way to do so is conversation with the students. They can evaluate where the students are by the questions they ask and their interactions.

-Dana Steinhorst (Math): The math department really likes the connections they have with the community that help the students. They've had student teachers and connection with BYU that have been really helpful. They will miss Ted Gilbert in their department this year as he moved into an administrative roll. The Math Team did really well. They finished 1st in state. Five students were recognized in their achievements at a state level. They've been working a lot on vertical alignment and test bank. She feels it helps all the teachers be on the same page. Cynthia asked what the biggest challenges are in the

department and what the Board could be made aware of. Dana said teachers feel like retention and application can be hard for students. They see that across the department as a whole.

-Katherine Chapman/Sandra Sorenson (Counseling): She will be taking over the Junior and Senior programs this upcoming school year for Kristal. Katherine said one of the biggest goals they have is to give the students better access to mental health counseling. She feels that COVID has contributed to a lot of mental health concerns with young people. She is excited to join the team in a bigger role. Cynthia brought up the question how the counselors can help the school as a whole to be more resilient in their mental health counseling. Kathryn said teacher awareness is one of the first lines of defense that we have. They are going to launch a suicide prevention program, Maeser Cares, to help give students a resource. Sandra started a Student of the Week that the teachers got to nominate a student who showed specific attributes for that month that the counseling department could highlight. Sandra focused on helping students make up their “F” grades. She would pull the “F” report on Thursdays and figure out why that grade occurred and then pull in the students and make a plan for that advisory Friday to help the student make up whatever it is they need to make up. Sandra shared some statistics on student achievements with internships, MTEC students, and mental health resources.

-Mary Keene (SpEd): Mary shared some statistics for current students and evaluation of more current students that will be joining the SpEd department. They have 3 full time teachers and 8 part time paraeducators. They are currently looking for more aids. They are currently in their 3rd audit of 14 months due to the “disproportionate white to minority students”.

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL

-Winterim Approvals: **MOTION:** Cynthia Shumway moved to approve the Winterim proposals as discussed with the caveat that all winterims are within appropriate budget limits. Jason Dodge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

-Fee Schedule: The biggest changes are that the Middle School activity and sports fees have increased by \$25 and Highschool has increased by \$30. The Fee Schedule is pending the approval for the August meeting.

-Code of Conduct Policy: **MOTION:** Cynthia Shumway moved to approve the Code of Conduct Policy. Paul Bingham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

-Attendance Policy: The NG for attendance portion of the policy that was removed last year is being reinstated. **MOTION:** Jason Dodge moved to reinstate the NG portion of the Attendance Policy back into the formal policy. Cynthia Shumway seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

-FY2022 Budget Approval: **MOTION:** Jason Dodge moved to approve the FY2022 budget as presented and amended. Cynthia Shumway seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

-FY2023 Budget Approval: **MOTION:** Paul Bingham moved to approve the FY2023 budget as presented and amended. Jason Dodge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

-Stipend Schedule: **MOTION:** Jason Dodge moved to approve the stipend schedule as discussed. Paul Bingham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

-Fraud Risk Assessment: The team ran through the assessment together and discussed where they are in regards to the guidelines. It was reviewed and the board found they were in good compliance with the assessment guidelines.

-Staffing Plan/Ratification of Hires: Bailey Benson (Science), Emily Hailey (Socratic), Marleen Goodrich (Socratic), Heather Butler (Socratic), Ethan Wright (Math), Natalie Lyman (Chinese). **MOTION:** Cynthia Shumway moved to ratify the hires as presented. Jason Dodge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

-Red Apple Finance Service Onboarding Report: Steve from Red Apple said they feel they are about halfway through their onboarding process right now. They are finding a lot of things that need to be fixed. Cynthia expressed her concern with the amount of funds that are being returned from lack of cashing checks. Steve said they are on top of it and will fix small errors/addresses in the systems to help this issue resolve itself moving forward.

-Gym Plans: Things are kind of on hold right now until Jason is able to meet with the admin team to discuss some other plans moving forward.

-Classical Foundations Course: Item tabled.

MOTION: Cynthia moved to move into closed session for the discussion of staffing and personnel. Jason Dodge seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Cynthia Shumway (aye), Janine See (aye), Jason Dodge (aye), Paul Bingham (aye), Steve Whitehouse (aye).

CLOSED SESSION

Begin Time: 10:25 pm

Ending Time: 11:00 pm

OPEN SESSION

Begin Time: 11:03 pm

MOTION: Janine See moved to approve the staffing plan and salary adjustments as discussed in closed session. Paul Bingham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at:

Recording: https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1W7yr2J5HWYSOx8M_qDh0rolqt0rqLrvC

Minutes: <https://maeserprep.org/board-meeting-minutes/>

Materials: https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1Jrl7IeZmpdtjBIEQp6Syt_hXzkZF0cZm