



Monarch Academy

**Monarch Academy Public Charter School Board Minutes
October 11, 2017
6730 Baymeadow Drive Glen Burnie, MD**

Attendees

Eric DeVito
Dr. Sissy Jimenez
Meghan Philbeck
Ray Szyperski

Not in Attendance

Crystal Fink
Marie Noplock
Marc Rodriguez
Dona Sturn
Loise Taliaferro

Monarch Staff

Emily Abell, Laurel
Joel Garcia, Glen Burnie
Maureen Larkin, Glen Burnie
Susan Myers, Annapolis
Donna O'Shea, Laurel

The Children's Guild

Dr. Duane Arbogast
Steve Howe
Angélique McKoy

Call to Order

Mr. DeVito called the meeting of the Monarch Academy Public Charter School (MAPCS) Board of Directors to order at 6:18pm. Mr. DeVito gave appreciation to the Annapolis staff on a successful grand opening event.

Minutes

There was not a quorum for approval of minutes. The minutes from May 10, 2017, August 9, 2017, and October 11, 2017 minutes to be approved at the December 13, 2017 meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Finance Report *(See attached financial reports).*

Mr. Sutherland presented the audit financial statements which are due on November 30, 2017. The board had a discussion about the financial reports presented by Mr. Sutherland. Mr. DeVito will send documents to the full board to garner a vote via email to approve the data. Additionally, the management agreement for Monarch Annapolis was previously distributed for discussion and signed by Mr. DeVito. **Added: 10/24/17 Mr. DeVito called for a vote on the financial reports via email. Ms. Taliaferro made a motion to approve and Ms. Fink seconded the motion. The financials were approved.**

Board Education *(See attached PARCC Scores Data).*

Dr. Arbogast presented the PARCC scores data which have very rigorous standards for achievement. He explained that PARCC is the annual year-end test in English language arts/literacy, and mathematics in grades 3-8 and high school. He highlighted that while 48 states adopted the Common Core State Standards and agreed to use the new assessment system, many states have dropped out of the program for a variety of reasons including amount of time required to assess students, the cost of administration of the tests, the concern about culture bias and concerns about how the tests are used for school accountability.

As it pertains to overall student performance, he reported that it has dropped significantly with the new implementations and that Maryland's performance is below 50% in proficiency. He presented student performance at all the Anne Arundel Monarch Academies and cited that Monarch Glen Burnie generally performs the highest with Monarch Global close. Additionally, he explained that neither school matches the county averages for Anne Arundel, but both perform consistently with schools with "like" demographics. Dr. Arbogast also stated that teachers are working diligently to match the PARCC data and meet the standards of the common core. As part of the accountability system, Dr. Arbogast expressed that the Monarch staff is committed to helping raise the scores.

Principal Reports

Annapolis – (See attached Monarch Academy – Annapolis Principal's Report)

Ms. Myers shared highlights from the Grand Opening which she commented was expertly planned by Guild staff. She mentioned that the 4th and 5th graders took part in the festivities by serving as greeters as well as introducing some of the speakers. She informed that the school is currently under enrollment, but some students have been admitted through the wait list. Ms. Myers also announced the official launch of the PTA and the first event is planned for November 4th. Lastly, she talked about the new after school program starting this month, LEAP Learning and Exploring After School Program for 4th and 5th graders.

Glen Burnie - (See attached Monarch Academy – Glen Burnie Principal's Report)

Mr. Garcia gave an overview of what each grade is doing as it pertains to kicking off the Expedition projects at the start of the new school year. He stated that overall it has been a very productive first six weeks. A recent Open House event brought at least 100 people to the school to learn more about Monarch Academy Glen Burnie.

Global – (See attached Monarch Global Academy – Laurel Principal's Report)

Ms. O'Shea also gave highlights on a successful start of the school year. She updated the Board on the completion of the building addition which houses the 1st and 2nd grades. Ms. O'Shea indicated that the recent open house yielded approximated 15 families with interest in the School.

Physical Plant Report

Monarch Global Addition – Mr. Howe informed that the addition to Monarch Global Academy in Laurel is complete and one of the two awnings has been installed. He also talked about the overall strong culture of both schools as it relates to the students helping each other, which is a great testament to the staff.

Monarch Annapolis Building Opening – Mr. Howe presented an update on the successful school opening and addressed the current issues with noise control in the cafeteria and gymnasium, as well as other physical issues in the building being corrected/managed. He also mentioned that a few new behavioral coaches and an additional clinician has been added to the staff.

Other Items

Dr. Arbogast informed that Glen Burnie experienced some HVAC issues prior to the start of school and lost air conditioning for about a week in September. Portable air conditioners were used to help until the engineers found a solution to the issue. Dr. Jimenez asked for an update on play areas at Annapolis, and Dr. Arbogast provided

information on two spaces being prepared, as well as a space that connects to the creek. He mentioned that the goal is to bring in grant partners to fund the project, along with fundraising.

Mr. DeVito shared that a small group met with a potential board member and will share updates with next steps as it pertains to extending a formal invitation. He also asked that the parent board representatives from the PTAs of the three schools attend the meetings at their home school when at all possible.

Mr. Szyperki asked for an inquiry as to whether families of first responders could have special preference to attending the school. Dr. Arbogast explained that this would be a change in state law and something that needs to be addressed at a higher level.

Adjourn

Mr. DeVito adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm. The next meeting of the Monarch Anne Arundel board is scheduled for December 13, 2017 at 6:00pm.

Submitted by:

Angélique McKoy
Recording Secretary