



Monarch Academy

**Monarch Academy Public Charter School Board Minutes
October 12, 2016
6730 Baymeadow Drive, Glen Burnie, MD**

Attendees

Eric DeVito
Dr. Patricia Doran
Amy Duffy
Brittany Jones
Loise Novo
Dr. Gbadebo Owolabi
Dr. Paul Rao
Marc Rodriguez

The Children's Guild

Greig Altieri
Dr. Duane Arbogast
Susan McFaul
Dr. Andrew Ross

Not in Attendance

Dr. Sissy Jimenez
Dona Sturn
Ray Szyperski

Monarch Staff

Joel Garcia, Glen Burnie
Susan Myers, Annapolis

Guests

Marie Noplock

Call to Order

Mr. DeVito called the meeting of the Monarch Academy Public Charter School (MAPCS) Board of Directors to order at 6:45 p.m.

Introductions

Introductions were made for Marc Rodriguez, new board director and Marie Noplock who will eventually be joining the board in July as Paul Rao assumes his role as Chair of the TranZed Alliance board.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2016 meeting was made by Dr. Doran and seconded by Dr. Rao. The motion was approved.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Monarch Annapolis Contract School Update

Traffic Study - Mr. DeVito explained that a traffic study was required before construction could move forward to ensure that the school would not cause issues. Mr. Altieri stated the traffic study has been completed and now needs to go to the mayor for final approval. The hope is once the mayor signs off on the traffic study the project will be released and construction will resume. The contractor feels that if construction begins in October/November that the school should be completed in time to open next year. Also once permission is granted it is hoped that the admissions process can begin in November as well.

The study confirmed that a traffic light was not necessary. There may be some signs posted that recommend limitations on turns.

Mr. Rodriguez checked on the status and it is moving through the system. The study showed that a light would be helpful. If it is a safety issue it is likely the city would pay for it rather than the school having to absorb the expense.

Dr. Arbogast added that he felt it was important that the city be behind us since it was an Alderwoman who was concerned about the school. The support from the city council was obtained and representatives from Monarch Annapolis presented at a public hearing. At the hearing there was a huge public showing regarding violence in Annapolis so the school's message was well received as a solution.

Ms. Myers reported that she has begun by learning the community and trying to create awareness of the school. She has found there is a lot of misinformation circulating and has been trying to present the facts. Ms. Myers has been reaching out to PTAs with more presentations scheduled. She will be working with Hispanic liaisons in the communities to talk to families to generate interest in the school.

Ms. Myers is working to make the admissions process accessible to all communities. The lottery process will be weighted for the immediate overcrowded schools so their students will have a higher chance of admission. Those students will have the equivalent of 3 applications submitted for the lottery. If 580 applications are not received a lottery would not be needed. Only the nine city of Annapolis schools are eligible to apply. Once the school is established it will be very difficult to get in just like the other Anne Arundel schools so the message is: "now is the time to apply!" The lotteries will be lined up so that if families apply to multiple schools they will know if they are in at both Glen Burnie and Annapolis and can make a decision on which is best for their child.

Currently heavy marketing has not occurred due to the hold up with the traffic study. The school superintendent was hesitant until everything was definitely a go in the event there was a delay with opening the school.

Monarch Global Academy Building Expansion

Due to the increase in enrollment Monarch Global was in need of additional space. The plans are complete and a grading permit is expected between now and November. The mechanical portion of the plans should be completed soon and will be submitted for the building permit. The addition will be an unattached steel structure building which looks like the rest of the building. It is located in the back behind the main building and will have its own security system. It is designed so a vice principal has an office in the space and it will include eight classrooms. It will likely house either grade 7 or 8. There is a fire lane and environmental storm water management which would have been expensive to move and adjust which is why the decision was made to not attach the addition. It is expected that eventually a cover will be added between the buildings. Construction will begin in December. Teachers have absorbed this one year of being overcrowded and inconvenienced knowing that next year they will have the proper space.

Ms. Jones reminded that BGE offers incentives and will have them contact Mr. Altieri.

Monthly Metrics

PARCC – Dr. Arbogast reported that nationwide standards were created so that all states were learning the same materials. This is Common Core. It was based on what does a child need to be successful as a freshmen in college and worked backwards for establishing the criteria needed. It has created standards that have been difficult to meet. PARCC is the testing that is given to predict success and determine a student's level. PARCC tests adapt to answers. If you miss a question you don't get the points and the next question is easier. While affluent white students have done well on the PARCC testing, other populations have not.

Dr. Arbogast showed the results (see attached) which are on a scale of 5 for meeting/exceeding expectations and 1 for not met. Maryland test results are lower because of the urban centers and population. Many states have been making the decision to drop out of PARCC testing because it is expensive, takes over a month to get test results and have taken a state like Maryland which was number 1 and now they only have 40% proficient.

The Guild's mission is focused on the student and less on the testing scores, however, the scores are unacceptable. Dr. Arbogast stated the need to keep what is good that we are doing but need to make improvements to increase the scores.

iReady - Dr. Arbogast distributed the iReady scores (see attached). The iReady testing does not adapt but is a predictor of PARCC testing scores.

Each campus has done their own strategic planning over the summer and action plans have been created to work to improve the scores without losing the identity of who we are. Dr. Arbogast stated that if a student grows to the next level it is considered a success even if they are not on grade level.

At the November meeting details of the plan to increase the scores will be presented to the board and if there is anything else they need to do to provide assistance. The Board would be able to give better input if they clearly understand the goals of the schools.

Principal Updates

Monarch Glen Burnie – Mr. Garcia reported that Ms. Larkin’s mother has passed away. She had been on leave caring for her and Ms. Myers has been on site to assist as needed. The first several weeks of school have shown that structures and routines are in place for students, parents, and teachers. Their strategic work plan is broken into three parts which include mastery of knowledge and skill, character traits that are being focused on which equals better student work and citizens, and quality work.

Monarch Annapolis – See above under “Monarch Annapolis Contract School Update”.

Monarch Global – Another Fun Run similar to last year’s fundraiser is planned. The school added 7th grade this year so it is officially a middle school this year. Ms. O’Shea has commented that with many of the same students returning the opening of school has been smooth.

PTA Updates

Monarch Glen Burnie – Ms. Duffy reported the school began with a skate night which was attended by 180 skaters. Fall fest is coming up next week which includes various activities and November will include a game day for families. The statewide Reflections competition has begun and the theme is “Tell me your story”. Students can write, draw or make something. In January there will be a gallery showing and potluck dinner. There will be teacher/parent conferences next week. A LulaRoe vendor will be coming in as a school fundraiser.

Monarch Global – Dr. Owolabi reported the PTA had its first meeting in September to recap last year. A \$67K budget has been set for the year. The Boosterthon fundraiser brought in \$60K, however, a percentage does go back to the vendor. The money is used for field trips, music instruments, etc.

Adjourn

Mr. DeVito adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm. The next meeting of the Monarch Anne Arundel board is scheduled for November 9, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Susan McFaul
Recording Secretary