

Monarch Academy Public Charter School Board Minutes
March 9, 2016
430 Brock Bridge Road, Laurel, MD

Attendees

Dr. Patricia Doran
Brittany Jones
Loise Novo
Dr. Gbadebo Owolabi
Dr. Paul Rao
Dona Sturn
Ray Szyperski

Not in Attendance

Sissy Chambers
Amy Duffy
Eric DeVito
Michael Wodka

Monarch Staff

Maurine Larkin, Glen Burnie
Donna O'Shea, Laurel

The Children's Guild

Dr. Duane Arbogast
Steve Baldwin
Dr. Andrew Ross
Susan McFaul

Call to Order

Ms. Jones called the meeting of the Monarch Academy Public Charter School (MAPCS) Board of Directors to order at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2016 meeting was made by Mr. Szyperski and seconded by Dr. Owolabi. The motion was approved.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Strategic Plan

Each committee provided a report:

Marketing & Development Committee – Ms. Jones reported (see attached) they would like a better understanding of the marketing that occurs when a new school opens, the budget available, enrollment criteria, is there a certain demographic that is being sought, and are there certain vendors we use for marketing materials.

Mr. Baldwin reported a budget has been set for the Annapolis charter school and there is some flexibility to adjust it if needed. There is good data for marketing available for Monarch Global and Glen Burnie that can be used to help make decisions based on what was successful.

Dr. Ross stated the goal is a well-rounded student body and there is no plan to strictly target any particular group. There will be a meeting with Pat Crain with Anne Arundel County to discuss marketing. The board committee would like to participate in this meeting.

Germantown, Tyler Heights and Hillsmere Elementary are the 3 overcrowded schools that are the initial target but there are 9 feeder schools. These are the main targeted schools to relieve overcrowding. It is hoped that we can leverage Anne Arundel County's communications team to assist with promotion of the school.

There is a bilingual group available through Anne Arundel County that could be utilized as a facilitator for helping to attract the Hispanic population given those who are new to this country are likely to not be familiar with the charter school concept.

When handling recruitment when her school opened, Ms. Larkin stated she distributed flyers to county schools and had open houses at local libraries. She stated having a connection within Anne Arundel County is helpful to getting in the doors of other schools to promote.

It was recommended that marketing begin this summer. Construction is scheduled to be completed almost a year ahead of opening, possibly by the end of this summer. It would be beneficial to be able to have the open houses at the school and to have something to show.

Marketing for Annapolis is critical and will be a standing agenda item for each meeting.

Assessment Committee – Ms. Sturn reported around technology and metrics. Given that technology is a broad area the committee asked for guidance on goals, budget, and time frame to begin to narrow it down.

Ms. O'Shea stated that Monarch Global is doing well in this area. They have laptop carts for K – 5 and 6th grade has bring your own device which has been hugely successful. For PARCC testing they cannot use their own device but for everything else it has been great. There is a need to define technology and how it should be used. Education moves so slow that technology is constantly ahead. The goal for the committee is to anticipate what technology will look like in 2016, 2017 and 2018. The principals need to look at their budgets and prioritize new technological initiatives.

What is process to determine specifics? Dr. Arbogast recommended going outside of the schools to determine what is happening in industry. An example would be to go to Meade High

School and see what they are doing and what they want from our students when they enter. Dr. Arbogast will contact Pat Crain for approval and awareness.

Finance Committee

Dr. Rao reported the two main items for this committee are transportation and the capital plan.

Mr. Baldwin spoke on transportation. Currently in Anne Arundel County we have been tied to one transportation vendor due to bidding. The goal is to attempt to get a new vendor on the approved list to be able to do our own transportation. William Poinsette, our current transportation vendor, has bid and won a route. It is not a full agreement but limited to a charter agreement. The hope is to expand the services and be able to use our own transportation. The current cost for busing is twice as expensive as what we pay at other charter schools.

No parent survey has been done regarding the current bus service. The Committee would like some outcome data; Mr. Baldwin will gather the information.

Dr. Rao stated that to date he has not met with Mr. DeVito regarding the capital plan.

Monarch Global School Addition

Mr. Baldwin reported that when Monarch Global was built it was designed for 732 students but with the 10% overage they will increase to 805. The school was built for \$11 million. Initially four possible classrooms were removed to save money. Those classrooms will be added to the building along with four additional classrooms. The initial thought was to create a temporary building since it would be easier to obtain the permits and then go back and create a permanent structure. The temporary proposal was expensive so the decision came down to starting with the temporary solution or just moving forward with the permanent. The money is in the budget so a permanent solution will be in place for the 2018 school year. Next year the student population will increase to 805 students and the school has worked to establish solutions to accommodate this number of students for that year. The art teachers will use carts to move to available classrooms and there will be several first grade classes with 28 – 29 students with a teaching assistant. The staff are on board with sacrifices knowing it is only for one year. The construction cost is \$1.1 million.

Principal Reports

Monarch Global Academy – Ms. O’Shea stated the expansion discussed above was the focus of her report for this month.

Monarch Glen Burnie – Ms. Larkin stated that Anne Arundel County Superintendent, George Arlotto visited the school.

PTA Reports

Monarch Global Academy – Dr. Owolabi reported the PTA amended the bylaws to change the terms of the officers. International day was a successful event with crafts and food from various countries. March 17th is a restaurant fundraiser.

Dr. Arbogast reminded the board of the upcoming NAREN conference and distributed information.

Adjourn

Ms. Jones adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm. The next meeting of the Monarch Anne Arundel board is scheduled for April 13, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Susan McFaul
Recording Secretary