

Monarch Academy Public Charter School Board Minutes
April 13, 2016
6730 Baymeadow Drive, Baltimore, MD

Attendees

Dr. Sissy Chambers
Eric DeVito
Amy Duffy
Loise Novo
Dr. Paul Rao
Ray Szyperski

Not in Attendance

Dr. Patricia Doran
Brittany Jones
Dr. Gbadebo Owolabi
Dona Sturn
Michael Wodka

Monarch Staff

Mark McCalpin, Laurel

The Children's Guild

Dr. Duane Arbogast
Amanda Henck
Dr. Andrew Ross
Susan McFaul

Call to Order

Mr. DeVito 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 March 9, 2016 meeting was made by Mr. Szyperski and seconded by Dr. Chambers. The motion was approved.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Budget Approval FY 17

Ms. Henck presented on the FY 17 budget (see attached presentation).

Assumptions include 1,474 students at a per pupil rate of \$12,219 and special education funding at \$1,912 per pupil. There was no increase for either rate.

Both schools have a surplus with Glen Burnie at \$189,547 and Global at \$487,160. Each of the key expenses for both campuses and as a whole were shown in graph form and also broken down

into more detail. These expenses include salaries, benefits, building, transportation, management fees and instructional supplies. The largest expense is salaries and benefits.

The capital budget for Glen Burnie reflects no large expenditures. One project is for IT to upgrade the wireless router and replace staff laptops.

Global will be purchasing furniture to accommodate new students coming in, student and teacher computer equipment and installation of synchronized clock system from its capital budget. Global is budgeting a larger surplus to fund the construction of the new classrooms.

A motion to approve the FY 17 budget as presented for Monarch Glen Burnie and Monarch Global Academy was made by Dr. Rao and seconded by Ms. Novo. The motion was approved.

Update on Plans for adding 7th Grade to Monarch Global Academy

Mr. McCalpin stated that Monarch Global will be infusing Project Based Learning into the curriculum. Project Based Learning is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge. A driving question leads to a project. Parents familiar with information technology were invited to participate in focus groups to assist with the project with three committing to active roles assisting with the projects. This will begin in the 7th grade and the 8th grade will continue to build on these projects. Monarch hopes to work with Meade High School to partner with their homeland security signature program to tie to a project.

The teachers will incorporate standards into the program and link as many subjects into it as possible. To participate in this program students don't need to be able to write programs but do need to use applications. For this program two of the four teachers are current teachers

iReady Updates

Dr. Arbogast distributed the iReady results for reading and math. The testing is based on points and it self-adjusts based on the answers. The spread of points reduces as students move to higher grades with a range of 46 points in Kindergarten but only 15 by grade 8.

The target for iReady is based on growth and is an indicator of PARCC scores. The schools that show the highest amount of growth are the ones with the lowest level of students who have more room to grow.

Tier 1 is on or above grade level; tier 2 close to grade level and tier 3 is struggling. There has been definite movement across the boards of students moving to higher tiers. Reading scores are slightly better than math. The iReady test is administered 3 times during the school year (fall,

winter, spring). During the school day there is not much time focused on working with iReady, however, students can work on it at home and earn points for doing so.

PTA reports

Monarch Glen Burnie - Ms. Duffy stated the Race for Education is next week and almost \$10K has been committed to date. The event will be held at the school which will save some money for transportation and field rental. Johns Hopkins will be participating with giveaways and volunteers.

It was noted that a teacher had a car accident coming out of the school. The PTA would like to get a sign or flashing lights to create awareness during school hours. Given we are a tenant in a business park it is unclear if anything can be done but the matter will be researched. It was suggested that traffic control come out to do a study.

Monarch Global Academy – no report provided.

Principal Updates

Monarch Global Academy – Mr. McCalpin reported Monarch Global is looking to increase staff which is done through a hiring committee which conducts the following: phone screening, model lesson with 4 people observing and completing a rubric for 45 minutes with a follow up discussion. The candidate has to present based on TED talk or article. The next step is a group process to see how they collaborate with others. The goal is to really try to see candidates in action and how well they collaborate with others versus just coming in to meeting with the principal. It gives a better understanding of their skills and how well they would fit. There has been very little staff turnover at Monarch Global. An internal staff survey is done but nothing comparing the school across the board with Anne Arundel County.

Next week is the IB (International Baccalaureate) site visit to assess PYP (Primary Years Programme). The board directors have been asked to participate if their schedule allows.

Monarch Global is currently recruiting for Kindergarten and has a few vacancies in 6th and 7th grade.

Monarch Glen Burnie – Ms. Larkin was ill; Dr. Arbogast reported. Monarch Glen Burnie will hold its Wingspan event on Friday, June 10th at 1 pm, Monday, June 13 at 10 am and Tuesday, June 14th at 9 am. The Board is invited to attend as this is an amazing opportunity for the students to demonstrate what they have learned.

Annapolis Charter School – Dr. Arbogast reported principal interviews are underway. While marketing will likely launch over the summer time is currently being invested to gather liaison information to assist with influencing the community regarding the school. Construction has begun on the building and a tour is planned at the next board meeting. The Anne Arundel County Board of Education approved the contract.

Strategic Plan Committee Reports

Marketing & Development Committee – Dr. Chambers reported that getting the influential list is key. When it comes to working with the Hispanic population there are two groups—the new and the established. Communication is a challenge with this population and it was suggested that Spanish grocery stores, apartment complexes, and restaurants would be good places to distribute the marketing materials.

Dr. Arbogast stated it would be helpful if the committee could use their influence to get to the right people, to advise us on the population and help us engage boots on the ground if willing. The Board committee should work directly with Dr. Ross. Molly white is working internally on marketing and Bonnie Henson Communications is working on the marketing plan.

Dr. Ross stated it would be helpful for the board members to attend recruitment festivals/events. Also, he contacted Mr. Langston with the Annapolis Rotary who would be willing to be our sponsor so that fundraising money could be donated to our school.

The Committee has been helpful with giving ideas for recruitment locations. Dr. Chambers added that she sees 75 plus children a week. This would be an opportunity for someone to go there and meet parents and take names. The Health department also has a steady flow of parents. Dr. Chambers and Ms. Novo feel they could identify a person to fill this liaison role and who could interact with the families. Dr. Arbogast also met with Laura Gardner to see who on her team could help.

Assessment Committee – Ms. Sturn was not in attendance. Dr. Arbogast is setting an appointment with an instructional person with Anne Arundel County for the committee.

Finance Committee - Dr. Rao reported the transportation subcommittee met and submitted notes from the meeting (see attached).

Regarding the financial piece see the attached summary. The Annapolis school will be a cash transaction with no loan needed or if one it will be very little.

Ms. Henck and Mr. Baldwin will follow up with questions submitted regarding finance and transportation.

From a capital plan perspective Dr. Ross thinks there are items that will need discussion at each campus. Also, there is not a good fundraising system other than what the school does.

Other Business

The next board meeting will begin with a tour of the Annapolis Charter School with the meeting to follow at a restaurant; Ms. Henck will need to present the financials.

Reminder of the IB site visit scheduled for next Friday, April 22nd.

Adjourn

Mr. DeVito adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm. The next meeting of the Monarch Anne Arundel board is scheduled for May 11, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Susan McFaul
Recording Secretary