

Monarch Academy Public Charter School Board Minutes
August 10, 2016
6730 Baymeadow Drive, Glen Burnie, MD

Attendees

Eric DeVito
Dr. Patricia Doran
Dr. Sissy Jimenez
Loise Novo
Dr. Paul Rao
Dona Sturn

Not in Attendance

Amy Duffy
Brittany Jones
Dr. Gbadebo Owolabi
Ray Szyperski

Monarch Staff

Lorie Barnes, Laurel
Joe Garcia, Glen Burnie

The Children's Guild

Dr. Duane Arbogast
Steve Baldwin
Susan McFaul

Call to Order

Mr. DeVito called the meeting of the Monarch Academy Public Charter School (MAPCS) Board of Directors to order at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2016 meeting was made by Dr. Jimenez and seconded by Dr. Doran. The motion was approved.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Strategic Plan Committee Reports

Marketing & Development Committee

Monarch Annapolis Contract School – A local Alderwoman has tried to block the school based on citing traffic concerns. The project cannot move forward until a traffic study has been completed. It is anticipated the study will be complete by the end of September. If the traffic study is in our favor the hope is to obtain building permits in the beginning of October. To date only the demolition in the building has been completed. The rest of the work has stopped until the

building permit is issued. If work resumes in October the construction should be complete by mid June and ready for school to open on schedule.

Campaign for Public Support for School – Mr. Rodriguez has been helpful providing advice on next steps given the resistance to the school. Representatives will be sent out to get petition signatures in favor of the school to show there is support.

Nomination of Marc Rodriguez to Monarch Anne Arundel board - Mr. DeVito and Dr. Ross have met with Mr. Rodriguez and feel he would be an excellent addition to the board. Dr. Rao reported that the Strategic Planning Committee of the TranZed Alliance board has approved Mr. Rodriguez's nomination for the Monarch Anne Arundel board and the final vote by the Executive Committee will be on August 16, 2016.

Focus of Marketing Efforts – Ms. Sturn reported that a meeting was held with the new Annapolis school principal, Susan Myers and Bonnie Henson, PR representative, to discuss marketing. The theme will be “Opportunity and Chance – a School of Choice”. The key message is choice of various programs such as International Baccalaureate, arts, etc. Different key programs will be a draw for a variety of students and parents. This is the marketing message to students who traditionally would not have the option for this type of education although the school will be marketed broadly to blue collar with no formal education, non-English speaking and college educated parents. Ms. Myers has been principal at Mills Parole in Anne Arundel County. The afterschool program would be another draw for parents. The board recommended pulling statistics from the current schools and using student/parent testimonials as promotion.

Integrated Arts - Dr. Arbogast requested help with contacts in the arts community. For students to be accepted into the local performing arts middle school an audition is required. The students from our school would likely not have lessons or outside opportunities to prepare them to be competitive for an audition. The goal is to find ways to leverage prospects to expose the students to outside opportunities and to create transportation solutions to do so. Ms. Novo had some recommendations of contacts who can be of assistance as did Ms. Sturn and Mr. Rodriguez.

Assessment Committee

Dr. Arbogast distributed academic assessment results from all of the schools for reading and math (see attached). The reports show good growth results but scores overall are low so there is still work to be done. Students who are below grade level show the most growth.

Dr. Arbogast stated that parents don't seem overly concerned with PARCC scores and don't look at it as an accurate assessment of how their child is doing. One issue with PARCC is some students struggle with the testing on the computer. The goal is to make the technology more natural for

the students to help them improve on the test. Also the new tests are very language driven which also causes struggles for our student population.

Mr. DeVito stated that as a board we do need to continue to evaluate the schools and that the reports are a good tool to determine how schools are performing.

Finance Committee

Dr. Rao distributed a transportation report (see attached). A survey will be conducted to better understand parent's opinion of transportation. Also he felt there was a need to better understand the incidents on the buses and how serious they were.

Monarch Glen Burnie did show an increase in incidents. Mr. Garcia stated that they were having issues and were working with the bus drivers to hold students accountable for their behavior. This has led to more incidents being submitted to better track the behavior and get students under control. There have been a few major incidents but mainly smaller behavior issues.

Mr. Baldwin reported that Anne Arundel County has given approval for providing our own transportation for Annapolis. For this school year Monarch will operate the same number of buses as last year. The current transportation contract will expire in June 2020 which at that time we will attempt to operate our own transportation for Glen Burnie and Global as well. This is an initiative that is currently under development.

The definition of bullying has been changed from multiple occurrences to just one incident. There is a submission that students/parents can complete online and the school is made aware of the complaint to ensure they are handling the complaint.

The next meeting will cover the budget pro forma for the Annapolis School.

Principal Updates

Monarch Glen Burnie – Mr. Garcia reported for the upcoming school year all new hires have been made and staff building exercises have occurred at North Bay. Additional sessions will be conducted to help staff acclimate to the school and adjust to our culture. A copy of the poetry books created by the 8th graders were distributed. The poems were written about topics that impacted students for the expedition “Are You an Agent of Change”? Guest speakers presented on the holocaust, civil rights and included Carl Wilkens who was the sole American who remained in Rwanda during the genocide. A Glen Burnie teacher just returned from a trip to Rwanda with Mr. Wilkens which was an enlightening experience.

Monarch Global – Ms. Barnes reported Global is adding 7th grade this year. They will open with 803 students enrolled and a waiting list. Teachers returned today for team building exercises. A

key focus this year is to have all students reading on grade level. A plan is in place with guided reading and a reading specialist to work on this goal. New technology has been purchased to present the morning announcements which are student driven. The incoming 7th grade will not be an International Baccalaureate program and instead will be project based learning so new programs are under development. The summer program ran smoothly and provided opportunities for various grades including allowing kindergarten to better prepare for the first day of school.

PTA reports

Monarch Glen Burnie – There was limited activity over the summer months.

Monarch Global Academy – Ms. Barnes reported that Monarch Global's PTA is preparing for Boosterthon which was their successful fundraiser last year. New officers will also be elected.

Adjourn

Mr. DeVito adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm. The next meeting of the Monarch Anne Arundel board is scheduled for September 14, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Susan McFaul
Recording Secretary