

**Morris Jeff Community School (MJCS)**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

Monday, October 16, 2019 5:30 pm  
211 South Lopez St.  
Library (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Members Present: Blaine LeCesne, Maria Newman Carerre, Shannon Williamson, Dwight Barnes

Members Absent: Bill Payne, Leslie Lawrence (Prearranged), Missy Sparks, Keyana Scales(Prearranged), Lisa Amoss (Prearranged)

*Meeting was called to order at 5:42pm*

**I.** Review and consideration for approval of Board meeting minutes

Due to non quorum, we did not vote on September minutes.

**II.** Morris Jeff Principal's Update

School performance scores come out later this month. We generally have a meeting with parents to explain the score. Charter Reviews happen in November and this year all high schools are being audited this year looking for graduation plans complete and updated so each student knows exactly what they need to graduate. This audit is largely due to problems recently at another high school. The superintendent will send a letter to families letting them know we have to renew our charter. We have also notified family. Open houses are scheduled for prospective students and we are excited to welcome new faces to campus.

**III.** Morris Jeff Family Partnership Update

The biggest goal for the family partnership is building community. They have focused on creating spaces where families already are. They are doing a lasertag fundraiser right before fall break. All fundraising is going toward the new playground. On report card night we will have pizza by the playground for the PTA so parents and families don't have to come

back out to PTA but we catch them where they already are. At each event there will be a community resource. Next month we will provide a list of all the donations for silent auction and showcase the various restaurants who will participate in the gala so parents can support businesses who support Morris Jeff. There is a robust uniform exchange program through the family partnership. Each classroom has at least 2 room parents in the elementary school and the communication has increased between lower school leaders and room parents. We've already had 150 families volunteer and our back to school picnic has record turnout. There are some high school parents focused on holding a movie night for the community to fundraise for the diploma programme fees. Parents are assisting with planning the gala.

Families are constantly focused on building community. One family's car is inaccessible due to the Hard Rock Hotel Collapse and within an hour of them posting in the family facebook group, the MJCS parent network had secured them a loaner car and car seats for their little ones. This is just one example of many of the way our community cares for each other.

#### IV. Finance Committee Update and Approval of Statements

Shannon met with Jared for finance committee in Lisa's absence since she had a death in the family. Some items to note are that the Pre-K tuition has increased from August to September as people have made that first payment. Our child nutrition program income and explorers program has all kicked up as those programs have fully begun rolling. Jared has just files amendments to the grant applications and MFP funds so we should see payments for those soon. In the group insurance you see some fluctuations due to the timing new employees hit the revenue. Again, with SPED contracted services and instructional support some of those invoices will continue to come in through the coming month. In facilities expenses you can see custodial and repairs and maintenance have remained the same. Last meeting we had not received our bus service invoice but that bill has come forward and is now included. In the materials and supplies we are still struggling with budgeting for curriculum and technology. As long as we are still growing at the high school and new tier I curriculums that need to be purchased, this number will be somewhat hard to project. Last month we discussed a budget revision but have not yet completed that. The audit is nearing completion and the field work is done.

Maria Newman Carrere asked about calendar invites for finance committee meetings. Shannon responded that Lisa, the current chair is responsible for calling finance meetings.

#### V. FUNdraising

Year to date we have raised about \$57k through grants. Currently in pledges between the ad book and sponsorships we have about \$28K and \$7500 in ticket sales. If we do a big push for the gala we can be at over \$100k. Julie remarked that this level of fundraising is impressive given the short amount of time the school has employed a development director. We are also going to add a 50/50 raffle, selling wine glasses this year with raffle tickets, as well as silent auction. The board can help by inviting friends to purchase tickets, finding additional ads for the ad book, and securing silent auction items. For the silent auction, we are trying out “a day in the life” where folks can purchase a day in the life of a person in a certain career. So far we have a meteorologist, an elected official, and our favorite school principal. If you or someone you know has a cool job and would be willing to be shadowed for a day, please let Shannon know.

Anyone who can assist with volunteer management for the shifts and express gratitude to volunteers to make things more accessible.

Dwight Barnes indicated he has secured donations from Lakewood golf course for foursome of golf with green fees and cart, a year’s supply of beer, as well as working on an ad from Toyota of New Orleans.

We are currently looking to fundraise for a playground for Pre-K and Kindergarten. The cost of the playground is about \$75k. We are looking into a KaBoom grant, MJFP is raising money and Julie is working on a naming rights campaign. If you know a foundation who is really into early childhood or play, please contact Julie to connect her.

## **VI. Governance Committee Report**

The governance committee met on Tuesday October 8, 2019. At our last meeting we discussed adding the roles of the board to the webpage. The committee drafted language for the board website and included citation. The language will be added to the website so families are clear on the role of the board.

The governance would like each board member to put up someone to add to the board. Patricia has forwarded the resume of Elain Reyes for a potential treasurer. Elaine has served the board of Arise charter school for several years but her term ended and she is looking for another board to serve on. She is a CPA and would step right into this role because she already knows Charter School Finance. Dr. Desiree Anderson, the Associate Dean of Students for Diversity at the University of New Orleans, expressed interest in joining the

Morris Jeff Board to Shannon. Shannon will follow up and forward her materials to the governance committee.

**VII. Open Public Comment Period**

No Public Comments

**VIII. Adjourn**

Maria moved to adjourn. Dwight seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

*The meeting adjourned at 6:36pm.*