

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

Monday, January 11, 2021 5:30 pm  
Via Google Meet

\*NOTE: Pursuant to emergency proclamation 30 JCE 20202, the Morris Jeff Community School Board certifies that it must conduct the January 11, 2021 meeting via Google Meet or the Board will otherwise be unable to operate due to quorum requirements. Board meetings shall be held in this manner during the pendency of this emergency.

Members Present: Shannon Williamson, Keyana Scales, Lisa Amoss, Missy Sparks, Elaine Reyes, Blaine LeCesne, Dwight Barnes (entered at 5:34)

Members Absent: Bill Payne, Maria Newman Carerre (Prearranged), Leslie Lawrence

School staff/Members of the public: Patricia Perkins, Jared Frank, Grace Rose (MJFP)

*Meeting was called to order at 5:31pm*

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

Missy moved to accept November meeting minutes with corrections. Lisa seconded the motion. No public comment. Minutes are approved.

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

Patricia began by asking us to stop and remember all that has happened in our country this past week. Shannon commended Patricia for the statement she released earlier today to help frame these difficult events for families and explain events in a developmental way. Blaine asked how the conversations are going with children. Patricia indicated that these conversations have been particularly challenging for teachers as they are not physically present with their children right now. Blaine highlighted the important of the need for strong civics curriculum. Missy noted that because MCS has built such strong community she feels that it has supported her high school child to process these events at school. Grace Rose echoed this and indicated that her children are taking Civics and Global Politics and that she is confident in their curriculum and has been pleased with the way the children's feelings have been discussed in younger grades as well. Shannon asked that school staff be supported by allowing for flexibility as much as possible and in turn that they are flexible with students, noting that this time is particularly difficult for BIPOC, and that this is not a

time for business as usual to occur. Blaine agreed noting the added challenges of COVID and the stress of the past year. He noted that he remains hopeful for our future in spite of many challenges.

Our school nurses were eligible in the current tier to be vaccinated and there is a town hall on Wednesday to discuss the process of the vaccine for teachers and school staff.

Patricia indicated that we are now getting our enrollment report and they are looking very strong so filling our enrollment seats should not be a challenge. She also indicated that the Senior Ring was so fun and was moved to have it for our first graduating class of students.

Shannon congratulated Patricia on the 5 year charter renewal and commend the work that went into the process.

We were pursuing a testing for our athletes but that arrangement wasn't quite right for us. We continue to encourage families to be vigilant and self test. They continue to make plans to conduct pool testing in grades 3-5 and are looking to get tests for students and staff who are symptomatic.

The board expressed gratitude to the school administrators and staff who have been so flexible this year in this remarkably challenging situation. Patricia indicated that she has a solid team and thus far it seems like everyone is planning to return next year.

### **III. MJFP Report**

Grace indicated that right now they are working with Mt. Carmel to do a say yes to the dress event before prom and are voting soon to give the HS more funds for water in the classrooms. Mostly we are just trying to manage people's fears and concerns as they come up on the social media sites.

### **IV. Finance Committee Update and Approval of 2020-2021 Budget**

Jared met with the finance committee earlier today and reviewed information through November 30th. We had a large federal grant reimbursement in October including Cares Act funds. In the expense section most things are pretty typical. Instructional support had a lot of one time expenses in October just the way things are billed and that is noted on the report. The other note is that the total curriculum in technology received a refund from an overpayment and that is noted on the report. We have a net income position of \$323K,

which is very good because we have budgeted for a loss. Jared noted that there is PPE costs, bus costs, and custodial expenses so things are in flux through the end of the year. We continue to be conservative because we know the tax revenue base will continue to impact schools.

Shannon asked about the Operations and Maintenance line item that had a large amount in October and is over budget for the year. Jared indicated that line item is over budget due to PPE purchases.

Our audit was completed on time and submitted to Nola Public Schools and there were no findings.

Elaine motioned to approve the financial statements as presented. Keyana seconded. No public comment. Motion carried unanimously.

### **VIII. FUNdraising**

Julie was not present but Jared shared on some recent grants received and Shannon highlighted the success of Morris Jeff Legacy month.

### **X. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.