

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

Monday, November 9, 2020 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 November 9, 2020 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:, Lisa Amoss, Shannon Williamson, Maria Newman Carerre, Elaine Reyes, Leslie Lawrence, Blaine LeCesne (left at 5.58pm), Dwight Barnes (entered at 5:40), Missy Spark (entered at 5:40),

Members Absent: Bill Payne, Keyana Scales

School staff/Members of the public: Patricia Perkins, Julie Thibodaux, Tony Pickett (Nola PS)

*Meeting was called to order at 5:38pm*

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

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

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

Patricia highlighted the new relationship with Loyola. They are offering up to 30 credits to students in the IB Diploma Program and it's a guarantee from Loyola. Additionally we have several finalists for Posse, Bonner, and Quest Bridge scholarships.

Blaine asked Patricia what the status is of finding a permanent facility for the high school. Patricia indicated that we are on hold until the charter renewals occur in December. There is a high school being built and their renewal is in question, Patricia and Dr. Lewis spoke about getting that facility after we offered to take on Kennedy during the public charter. Patricia indicated that the board should advocate with Nola Public Schools. Patricia asked if Toni, from Nola Public Schools had additional information to be helpful. Toni had no

comment at the time. Blaine indicated that the high school location was an urgent issue and its incumbent upon Nola Public Schools to get a facility located. The current facility does not meet student or teacher needs.

Shannon suggested that the board consider dedicating the January meeting to discussing the high school site, inviting members of NOLA PS to participate as well as HS families, students, and teachers. Dwight and Lisa indicated that they had contact with current or future school board members that they would reach out to. Patricia mentioned several contacts as well. Shannon suggested that board members need to attend Nola Public Schools meetings. Patricia indicated that we have the capacity to fill a building immediately with 800 students and our performance has been very strong. While building allocations are always political, the board must advocate for MJCS high school students to have an appropriate facility.

Blaine and Patricia will put together talking points for board members to bring to their contacts on the board and the nola public schools.

### **III. MJFP Report**

MJFP canceled their trunk or treat and opted to have halloween parties. Even with the hurricane, they managed to have parties after we returned. Additionally they have provided for the drinking water for all classrooms. Sent in catered meals for report card conference nights.

They are also working on a Pre K playground with Julie and Kaboom. We have one playground for 900 children so this is a desperate need. Currently we are waiting for Nola PS to approve our facilities request to add a fence.

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

Elaine presented the financial report in Jared's absence. For September year to date we are in a net deficit of 39K, so we are getting much closer to breaking even (last month we were at \$150k). We will have significant Grants Receivable and Grant Revenue being booked in October for multiple grants. This will sure up our financial position for the first half of the year. We submitted our AFRs on time and error free. We have completed Field Work with our Auditors. There are a few items that we are still working on, but will keep you posted. That report is due December 31 to the state and they will send a formal report by mail. We can invite them to a meeting if needed. You may have received Related Party

Questionnaires already via email. Elaine, Blaine, and Shannon completed the Compliance Questionnaire that required their electronic signatures.

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

### **VIII. FUNdraising**

Julie shared Morris Jeff Legacy Month is happening now. Virtual Trivia is on Friday. It is a free event. All of the sponsorships are on this page and we are serving brunch twice this month at Ruby Slipper Café. We have a smaller silent auction this year. We have a raffle of over \$1500 restaurant giftcards and a George Rodrigue authenticated print and there are many other items for you to peruse. Please take the opportunity to support Morris Jeff this month!

There is also a Kendra Scott shopping day on December 4-5 where MJCS gets proceeds from purchases so there are many ways to support.

### **X. Adjourn**

Toni Pickett indicated that she had technical difficulties earlier in the call and was unable to answer when the facilities questions were posed earlier in the call, but she indicated that she would bring our concerns about facilities back to NOLA PS.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm.