

Micanopy Academy Board Meeting Minutes

Date: August 13, 2024

Time: 5:32 PM

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by President Bishop Stokes.
- Quorum: Established with the following members present:
 - President: Bishop Stokes
 - Vice President: Frank Williams
 - Secretary: Ed Rick
 - Absent:
 - Nancy Brown
 - Treasurer: Tara Lowe-Phillips

2. Public Comments

- Lindsey Hester Nunez: Shared general thoughts on recent events. Disappointed how the past few months had been handled by the Board. She

credited parents, teachers, and students for the renovation for the school facilities and meeting the deadline to open.

- Unidentified Attendee: Inquired about the use of FLVS, expressing dissatisfaction. Principal Powell explained it was for high school students to meet graduation requirements.

3. Other Concerns:

- School Finances: Concerns and rumors about school financing were addressed by Principal Powell.

- Bank Account Access: Principal Powell requested access to the school's bank accounts, which he currently does not have.

4. Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) Report

- Angela Davis (PTO President):
- Reported 41 members have signed up for PTO.
- Announced the next meeting on August 23, 2024.
- Frank Williams: Inquired about leftover funds, approximately \$6,800.

5. Public Records Request

- Request Received: From Anne Smith, as communicated by President Bishop Stokes. Bishop Stokes acknowledged he had received and is working on it.
- Items Listed: Frank Williams enumerated 11 items in the request (see attachment).
Items addressed:
 - Asked for documentation of communications (text, email, verbal or otherwise) between 2 or more board members outside of meetings:
 - Discussing the decision and process to non-renew Principal Walker.
 - Discussing the decision and process for teacher contracts
 - Regarding the request for texts, emails and documentation of other conversations held between Board members outside of the meetings - Ed Rick and Frank Williams both explained that there were no outside communications held by them with any other board member. Nance Brown and Tara Lowe-Phillips not present to comment, but Board will follow up.
 - Asked about the process for hiring new teachers - Bishop Stokes and Kristy Bickmeyer (parent and

part of the Principal Search Committee) did in-person interviews for new teachers.

- Asked about current Out-of-Field Teachers: The board discussed the legal requirement to notify parents, which has not been done yet. Principal Powell is addressing the issue.

- Asked where Board meeting notices are being posted. Why is agenda not posted ahead of time? Board agreed to post at the school bulletin board, FB page and school website. Discussed to potentially post in a newspaper.

- Asked for Board minutes April to Aug for all regular or special meetings. Some handwritten minutes have been submitted to Bishop Stokes, but not yet transcribed to be posted. Board agreed to post to MA website once Bishop Stokes had reviewed and, in the future, to post handwritten notes to ensure timely posting.

- Revised Policies and Procedures Manual is not available to teachers or posted online. Board agreed to publish online ASAP and Ed Rick recommended a hard copy be furnished to all employees.

- Frank Williams said some of the other requests were too broad to address.

6. Parent Concern

- Student Discipline and Grades: A parent's concern was discussed. Principal Powell is handling the matter in coordination with Jenny Peak at the Alachua County Board of Education.

7. Principal's Report (See Attachment)

- Enrollment: Currently at 75 students.

Staffing:

- Despite being fully staffed upon hire, two teachers have withdrawn, leaving only five. Recruitment is ongoing.

Requests Approved by Board:

- Part-time PE teacher.
- Part-time foreign language teacher.
- Special pay increase for a paraprofessional acting as a substitute teacher.

Facilities:

- Bathrooms and AC have been repaired.
- Lighting replacement is ongoing.
- IT/Security:

Emerald Data has updated and secured all computers.

Initial contract signed, pending board approval for expenditure.

Finances:

- Certification Exams for Out-of-Field Teachers: Approved up to \$150 per exam (Vote 3-0).
- Pay Limit for Part-Time PE and Spanish Teachers: Approved up to \$25/hr (Vote 3-0).
- Health Insurance: Approved full monthly premium up to \$50 for all eligible staff (Vote 3-0).
- Special Pay Increase: Approved \$3/hr increase for paraprofessional acting as a substitute teacher (Vote 3-0).
- McGraw Hill Subscription: Approved \$3,211.58 for a 1-year subscription for math and science, potentially reimbursed through leftover ESSER funds (Vote 3-0).
- Professional Development Funds: Request for \$3,500 for the Principal was tabled pending proposal from Bishop Stokes.

8. Board President's Report

- Resignation: Tara Lowe-Phillips submitted her resignation, effective immediately, read by Frank Williams. The resignation was accepted with thanks for her service.

- Board Position: Next meeting will review applications to fill the open Board position. Current applicants will be contacted and notice for applications will be posted.
- Board Application Revision: Agreed to remove the requirement of a 1-year relationship with the school from the application, as it is not in the bylaws or policies and procedures manual.
- Bishop Stokes proposed a mentorship agreement with retired Charter School Trainer Kathryn Barnes in lieu of Professional Development fund use.

- Social Media and Website: Kristy Bickmeyer agreed to assist with postings and notices.

9. PTO Concern

- Angela Davis (PTO President): Raised concerns about Board oversight of PTO activities. The Board agreed that MA PTO should function independently and will support revising the PTO bylaws to reflect this.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Next Meeting - The next meeting will be held on September 10, 2024, at 5:30 PM, serving as the Annual Micanopy Academy Board Meeting.

Signatures:

Edward Rick, Secretary

Christopher Stokes, President

Frank Williams, Vice President