



# GOODWATER MONTESSORI

## *Public Charter School*

Board Meeting Minutes  
Goodwater Montessori School  
August 24, 2021, 6:30 pm  
Decisions are highlighted.

### **1. Call To Order 6:30 PM:**

Carl Illig established a quorum.

Expected to be in attendance: Carl Illig, Mary Evelyn Bowling, Christopher Hinds, Montique Chance, Jan MacWatters, and Suzanne Robinson. The following staff is expected to attend: Dr. Bruce Tabor, Marcy Steward, Kim Hodges, Alma Lahmon, and Kristi Lee.

In attendance: Carl Illig, Christopher Hinds, Jan MacWatters, Mary Evelyn Bowling, and Suzanne Robinson.

Staff: Dr. Bruce Tabor, Marcy Steward, Kim Hodges, Kristi Lee, and Iana Phillips.

6:34 pm Montique Chance joins the meeting

### **2. Public Comments:**

Speakers will be allocated 2 minutes for public comments on matters of public concern.

Mr. Syed Riz

Mr. Walter Evans

Ms. Laura Evans

Mr. Poeschel

Mr. Garcia

Ms. Caroline Clark

Ms. Gurley

Ms. Michelle Wong

### **3. Consent Agenda**

Minutes from July 27 and August 14 board meetings.

**Mary Evelyn Bowling moved to accept the minutes from both meetings. Chris Hinds seconded the motion. The motion was approved, unanimously.**

#### **4. Discussion and action items**

- A. **Superintendent Report:** Dr. Bruce Tabor thanked the staff and parents for the work and their support.

Enrollment and attendance report.

The covid-19 update is, we are monitoring the messages from the authorities (WCCHD, CDC, Governor's office, TEA), continuing protocols, and sending a survey out to ask families about their mask preferences. Remote conferencing details are given. In the area of RTI, we are developing our accelerated learning program required by TEA.

Despite all of this we are so excited to have students in person and we are providing safeguards for our students to the best of our ability.

#### **B. Discussion and consideration of mask mandate:**

Denise Pierce, attorney for Goodwater Montessori, described the current situation of mask mandates from Greg Abbott. There is one interpretation of the executive order that says maybe Charter schools aren't included in the order. Denise Pierce did not suggest interpreting the order that way. Abbott's posture of the order is clear and direct. They are saying fines are coming if you create a mask mandate for your ISD.

The state is under a debate for personal health choice or public health choice.

As of today, a preliminary injunction against the GA executive order. It is off of the table for enforcement.

As of Friday, TEA sent a letter saying they will not enforce GA 38. TEA will not sanction a school for adopting a mandate. Area districts have taken on the risk, and others who will not take the risk and not violate the Governor's order. In a few weeks when the litigation makes it further in the courts we will know more about how these will be upheld. For the next few weeks, we will not know. Ms. Pierce discussed dress code ideas and Ken Paxton's list of those violating GA 38.

If there is a mask mandate, how do we enforce it? Employees and students would have to follow the mandate as any other rule.

What does the funding look like if we have a covid breakout? The remote funding protocol from the TEA goes into effect and after 20 days, we can file a waiver.

For this school year, our obligation when someone is positive for Covid, stay home and quarantine. Our obligation when someone has had close contact, let parents know and the parents can keep students at home.

Carl asked Dr. Bruce Tabor to talk about his opinions and observations from inside the classroom. He said that students are doing everything they can and have been great at trying to follow protocols.

"My obligation is to not jeopardize the financial health of GMS. I do not want to break the law. I am struggling personally with my own ethics and how to handle this in the best way."

Jan MacWaters expressed concern about the court cases that may come to GMS in the future and the damage they could cause.

Montique Chance expressed that parents are the experts of their own children. What part can you do to keep you and your community safe?

Let us be the example of how to navigate this the best we can.

Chris Hinds expressed the desire to keep the choice up to the parents.

Suzanne Robinson discussed, at what point does public health cross personal health issues? Also, she discussed vaccines, masks, and a group of school children who are not eligible to be vaccinated.

Carl Illig spoke about the worry of legal fees and the list of schools in violation of the Governor's orders. "I do not think at this point that a mask mandate is right for Goodwater."

Suzanne Robinson moved to create a mask mandate at GMS. No one seconded the motion. This motion died.

**C. Dr. Bruce introduced a new staff member, Iana Phillips, our Montessori Coach.**

We are excited about what Iana Phillips brings to our school.

**D. Discussion and Consideration: Adoption of FY21 Final Budget Amendment**

Marcy Steward and Kimber Fuccello summarized the budget amendment.

Chris Hinds moved to accept and adopt FY21 Final Budget Amendment.

Mary Evelyn Bowling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Consideration: Adoption of FY22 Initial Budget**

Kimber Fuccello discussed this initial budget.

Marcy Steward answered questions.

Chris Hinds moved to accept and adopt the FY22 Initial Budget. Jan Mac Watters seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

**E. Discussion and Consideration: TEKS EMAT Allotment & Certification Amendment**

This is for additional support for the school for TEKS, textbooks, secondary tools, and a Texas History curriculum.

Mary Evelyn Bowling moved to accept the amendment. Montique Chance seconded the motion.

This motion passed unanimously.

Does anyone have anything to add to the agenda for the next meeting on September 28, 2021?

Suzanne Robinson wants to add an update from Special Programs. Chris Hinds asked for a Covid-19 update and mask discussion. Several members asked for standard school reports.

7:57 pm Carl Illig moved to adjourn the meeting, Mary Evelyn Bowling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

