



Maritime Academy Charter School

2275 Bridge Street, Building 11

Philadelphia, PA 19137

Phone: 215-535-4555

Fax: 215-535-4398

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

2700 E. HUNTINGDON STREET

WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER 19, 2022 - 5:00 pm

IN PERSON or VIA ZOOM LINK

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82575627509?pwd=Ri9TU0lyZ0RqNGYyT1hVMIJpdDhQUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 7562 7509 - Passcode: F0QkJr

Dial In Number: 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 825 7562 7509 - Passcode: 941310

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Cointot, Chairman
Michele Krajewski
Robert Cook
Louis Cavaliere
Tummona Fisher
Lew Grill
Nathan Hauser

Michael LaGrassa
Michael Mattioni
Arthur Sulzer
Robert Vacchiano
Richard Venuti

PROXY

Minerva Cruz

ABSENT

Mary Anne Celenza
Cynthia Hudson

MACS STAFF

Eugene Mattioni, CEO
Matthew Wilson, HS Principal
Stephen Hewitt, HS Asst. Principal
Peter Saunders, ES/MS Principal
Laura Bischoff, ES/MS Asst. Principal
Joyce Fanega, ES/MS Dean of Students
Kimberly Bonanni, SPED Director
Sylvia Wassel, 3rd Grade Teacher

GUESTS

Craig Butler, Foundations, Inc.
Roseanne Ahlholm, Foundations, Inc.
Gerry Malkowski, Facilities Manager
Tom Bond, *NAI* Geis Realty Group, Inc.
Alex Schuh, School Frontiers

Roll Call / Review of Minutes

Capt. Cointot requested all board members review the minutes from the September 2022 meeting and asked for a MOTION to approve:

FIRST: Robert Vacchiano

SECOND: Richard Venuti

No objections heard; all were in favor (one proxy), there were no nays, and the MOTION was APPROVED unanimously.

Financial Report – Craig Butler

Mr. Butler reviewed the current 2022-2023 actual YTD amounts for September 2022 (amount based on 820 students):

Opening Fund Balance	\$ 5,990,773
Total Revenue	\$ 3,574,816
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,951,933
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 6,613,656

Board Chairman, Capt. Scott Cointot asked for a MOTION to approve the September 2022 financials:

MOTION: Arthur Sulzer

SECOND: Robert Cook

All were in favor (one proxy), there were no nays, and the MOTION was APPROVED unanimously.

Board Chairman’s Report – Capt. Scott Cointot

Nothing to report at this time.

CEO Report – Eugene Mattioni

Status of Charter School Office

After receiving a very favorable recommendation by the Charter School Office regarding our Application to Change the Location of our High School, the item 27 on the Board of Education Agenda was removed at the direction of Peng Chao, Interim Chief of the Charter School Office on the evening before the Board of Education meeting that took place on September 22, 2022. At a subsequent meeting with Charter School Office personnel Peng Chao, Biridiana Rodriguez and Cameron Voss, Mr. Chao advised that we were removed because we are due for Charter Renewal. He claims it was his decision and he did not want a Change of Location to come before a decision on Charter Renewal.

Building 201/202 - Letter of Intent, Terms of Lease

Tom Bond and Julie Berson are working on the terms of a Letter of Intent and Lease of space in building 201 & 202. We may have a draft available at the Board Meeting. Our Architect Kevin Blackney and Troy Hill toured the buildings for a third time on 10/17 and he will have a proposal to us by the end of the week. He and Troy are very pleased with the buildings for conversion into very nice school buildings. Tom is also in discussion with Matt Handel, local representative of HSP Alliance, owner of the buildings. The intent is to lease for a term with an option to purchase at a later date.

Meeting with Councilman Mark Squilla

Mr. Mattioni met with Councilman Mark Squilla and informed him of MACS’ plan to leave Port Richmond and consolidate our school at the Arsenal. He is very supportive and will do virtually anything that we request. He noted the neighbors are very pleased with our school at its present location. I suggested a K - 6 school. He was supportive but said the Council has virtually no power with the School Board or Charter School Office. They are a force that does not have any accountability to anyone other than the Mayor who appoints them to the School Board.

Application for Increase in Enrollment by 10% from 820 to 902.

We have filed a timely application on October 14, 2022 to Increase Enrollment from 820 to 902 and included our prior Application to Change Location. We did receive a receipt acknowledgement from Cameron Voss of the Charter School Office. It was indicated they will get back to us if they need any further support.

Charter Renewal

Our Charter Renewal Committee meets on a regular basis as do our administration member meetings weekly. The next process will be a series of site visits by the Charter School Office. It appears that Ms. Rodriguez will lead the site visits at MACS. We are spending a great deal of time in preparation for the Charter School Office site visits. We have covered the anticipated questions at Professional Development. Principals Matt Wilson and Peter Saunders have worked on careful protocols to stage as much of the site visits as possible. We have also been assisted by Ms. Susan Ostrich, of Foundations, who has conducted site visits and been through many site visits. We are also permitted to offer and highlight our Vision and Mission; how we show appreciation of our nation's maritime heritage; master their respective standard based curriculum, and do it all in a nurturing school environment while developing a strong sense of community by recognizing all people and cultures. We plan to feature our North Wind

voyages and invite a Charter School Representative to join us on a voyage. We will highlight our Sea Cadet and League Cadet programs and request a Charter Representative to observe. We will have them join us at Boat Building at the Independence Seaport Museum and delight them with our Sea Shanty Chorus. We will introduce teachers Mr. Lott, Ms. Castro, Chief Hentnick, Mr. Karpin, Ms. Simon, Mr. Sesto, Ms. Pernell, and Mr. Smith covering all subject matter. We will present select cadets and parents, Special Education Cadets, and much more.

River North Development of the Delaware Trail

On 10/17/2022, Mr. Mattioni attended a ceremony to showcase another section of the river trail system along the Delaware River. All of the local leadership were present; Congressman Boyle and Borski, State Senator Hohenstein, Councilman Mike Driscoll, Yvonne Stevens of Riverfront North, Board Member Michael Mattioni, and many others. They have all been supporters of MACS. I had the opportunity to meet Jane Golden, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, and plan to invite her for a visit to our school and art programs.

African American Chamber of Commerce

MACS is a member and Ms. Regina Hairston, President and CEO of AACC, will be visiting our school on November 15, 2022 at 11:30am. We look forward to her coming to our School. We will make it a special event and showcase our Sea Cadets and Sea Shanty Chorus.

School Trips

With the near end of the Pandemic, we have been able to support many trips by our students. The trips are also a learning experience. Eastern State Penitentiary - the prison system/punishment to meet the crime; The Museum of the American Revolution - the history of the revolution; Johnson' corner - farm produce and animals; New Freedom Theater - and the forgotten fathers of our country.

Other Events That Took Place:

- National Honor Society Induction Ceremony; Basketball Game Sunday, 9/25/2022; Back to School Night; High School Career Fair; Not Wright Brand Basketballs – African American Owned Business; Girls Volleyball – 9-0 (Zero Losses!); Minding Your Mind Presentation – 7th and 8th Grade; ES/MS Girls Cross Country Practice at the Arsenal.

High School Report – Matthew Wilson

- Dave Dormond from the Independence Seaport Museum along with a representative from the EAGLE program (female STEM program) visited our 9th and 10th grades on two separate occasions to recruit. Boat Building has gained traction since the cadets who have already been participating in the program love it and are promoting the program amongst their friends. Approximately 14 female cadets signed up for the EAGLE program and 20 cadets signed up for boat building. Due to the high interest, we had to split the group in half and expanded boat building to two days a week.
- Mr. Sesto, 9th grade Algebra teacher and Math 7-12 Data Coordinator, began the first round of standardized assessments within a designed 8-week assessment cycle with the math teams. His findings and the team's response to the data will be presented at the next board meeting.
- Mr. Hewitt has been overseeing Mandatory Study Hall and Detention sessions to help ensure academic and behavioral accountability. Ms. Karnes has been overseeing Attendance Recovery sessions for attendance accountability.
- We posted our Hispanic Heritage video on the school's website. We plan to post a video for each month's heritage/appreciation theme. We would love to see board members participate in our videos (our staff will be participating as well). If you are interested, please let me know and I will arrange the filming for the respected month.
 - October- Family Heritage Month (Italian, Polish, Ukrainian, German, Irish, etc.)
 - November- American Indian/Native Alaskan Heritage Month
 - December- Mariner History Month
 - January- Military History Month
 - February- Black History Month
 - March- Women's History Month
 - April- Arab American History Month
 - May- Asian/Pacific & Jewish American Heritage Month
 - June- LGBTQ+ History Month

- With the help of Ms. Karnes and our National Honor Society, we have started our Ditty Bag collection.
- Our AP U.S. History class will attend a live theatre show at New Freedom Theatre on November 15. The show will begin at 12 noon and run for 45 min with a 20-minute Q&A afterwards. Cadets will see “Forgotten Founding Fathers,” a play that profiles some of the pivotal contributions made by formerly enslaved individuals in the formation of the United States. This play reminds the audience that Black History is American History.
- 10th grade cadets visited Parkway Central Library. All grades will visit, get library cards, and learn how to conduct research.
- North Wind trips for our 9th and 11th grade started this week.
- Cadet M.M., a student who has faced tremendous hardship and academic struggles, completed his credit recovery and earned his red senior shirt. He is on track to graduate.
- 10th grade cadets visited the Museum of the American Revolution.
- We are continuing to prepare for our Charter Renewal Site Visit. A plan/schedule has been created that the Charter Office will follow to observe lessons specifically aligned to one of our mission elements.
- Capt. Cook recommended a speaker come in to talk to students regarding river piloting.

Elementary School Report – Peter Saunders

Candy and Pretzel Sales: This year's candy sale went great! Cadets sold a little over 300 boxes of candy and pretzels. The candy sale has made around \$9,000. We will know the final sales results by next week. All the money raised will go towards Trumark Financial Kiss the Pig fundraiser. By the way, we are looking for volunteers to Kiss the Pig.

Fall Book Fair: Our fall book fair did just over \$6,000 in sales. This is a sizable increase in sales compared to some of our previous year's fall book fairs. With the money raised, we earn Scholastic Dollars that we use to replenish teacher's libraries and reward teachers and sometimes cadets.

Field Trips: After several years of limited field trips due to COVID 19, we are finally getting back to normal and allowing our cadets to experience learning activities away from school. So far, our entire 7th grade has had the chance to sail on the Northwind. Next week, the 2nd grade and Ms. Lerner's class will go to Johnson Corner Farms. There is also an upcoming visit to Styer's Orchard for our Kindergarten and 1st grade. In November, our 8th grade will travel to the New Freedom Theater to watch a play called “Our Forgotten Founding Fathers”. We are excited for these trips and several more are also in the works.

SEPCAL Cross Country: So far this season in cross country, the Sea Dog girls are undefeated and are 4-0! There have been three meets so far and our girls have been winning in dominant fashion. Not to be outdone, the boys have finished 1st or 2nd in all three meets so far. Kudos to Ms. Donovan and Ms. Carroll who are the coaches for the boys and girls teams. We have introduced the program, “Girls on the Run”, which is an inspirational and esteem building program for female cadets at the elementary school. It will also serve as a way for cadets that are too young to participate in cross country to begin training for it in future years.

Home and School: We are trying to build on the large turnout of families that we had for the September Home and School meeting. To do this, we are holding our second Home and School meeting on October 26th to finalize our plans for Trunk or Treat on October 28th. We hope this will help us with volunteers to help us at the Trunk or Treat. This would be a great opportunity for board members to visit school; all are invited to attend.

Halloween Costume Drive: We started a Halloween Costume Drive on October 11th. It is scheduled to run through October 31st. Ms. Brennan is spearheading this effort. If you are interested in finding out how you can donate, she can be reached at brennan.k@maritimecharter.org.

Minding Your Mind: Due to the success of the Minding Your Mind presentation we have had in our upper grades and high school, we are bringing them back to do presentations with 3rd through 6th grade. The programs they have for the younger cadets are “Kind Minds” for our 3rd graders and the student-led “Changing Minds: Stories Over Stigma”. We expect these to be engaging and inspirational presentations.

CLC and ESSERS Funding Report – Stephen Hewitt/Laura Bischoff/Joyce Fanega

- Fall programming continues and our enrollment numbers remain excellent at the elementary school and growing at the high school as new programs emerge. We are averaging well over 150 cadets per day at the elementary school for PM programs. We were able to add additional staffing at the elementary school and hope to add additional teachers in the coming weeks if necessary.
- At the elementary school programs include our traditional academic enrichment and Sea Cadets. We were able to add Lil' Scientists, Lego Connections, Environmental Science, Science Adventures, and Maritime PALS. These programs are serving a wide variety of cadets.
- Our newest addition is Girls on the Run, which will be funded with CARES 24 funds. This program is for female cadets in grades 3-5 and the Heart and Sole program is for female cadets in grades 6-8. The Girls on the Run researched-based curriculum is structured around understanding ourselves, valuing relationships and teamwork, and recognizing how we can shape the world at large. Participants gain critical life skills that strengthen their potential at a time when societal pressures and conflicting messages about how to feel and act can cause doubt and uncertainty.
- Our programs began in mid-September and will run until the first week of December. In our 3-5 program we have 34 cadets and in our 6-8 program we have 36 cadets! The season ends in a celebratory 5K on December 4th at the Navy Yard. This closing event gives program participants of all abilities a tangible sense of accomplishment. Crossing the finish line instills confidence through completion and is a joyful moment program participants always remember!
- At the high school, we continue to offer our tutoring programs, credit recovery, and Sea Cadets. Cadets are trying their hand at cooking, chess, and leisure reading. We will add additional programs as teachers coordinate their schedules.
- We officially began drawing funds from Cohort 11. This new cohort will fund programs in Kindergarten and Grades 3 through 12, while Cohort 10 continues to fund programs in Grades 1 and 2. Staff members in both Cohorts are participating in required training sessions.

As we have done for the past two years, we will follow all updated CDC guidelines for our after-school programs.

Specialized Services Report – Kim Bonanni

Total Number of Special Education Cadets = 160

ESL: Natali Martinez and Doug Smith are our two ESL instructors. Due to the rapid expansion of both ESL and Special Education, Mr. Mattioni offered to hire a part-time ESL coordinator to assist with testing, supervision and paperwork of both the ESL staff and cadets. Ms. Lauren Goldberg, our prior ESL teacher, applied for the position. Mr. Mattioni agreed with my assessment that she is both well-versed in ESL and has great leadership tendencies. She began her position on 10/13/2022 and has already begun assisting our staff. We are very happy to have her back!

Special Education: We continue to make great progress in our special education department. I met with Ms. Rodriguez, from the charter school office, to answer questions about the files they had requested. She made some suggestions on how to improve our Progress Monitoring Reports and our Transition plans but, overall, she did not see any red flags. We have begun to implement the suggestions. One of our cadets was several credits short of being a 12th grade student. We decided to provide him the opportunity to complete the coursework in Edgenuity while beginning 12th grade classes. I am pleased to announce that he completed the credit recovery program on 10/13/2022 and has progressed to being an official senior. We are very proud of him!

PASA: We have begun to compile names for the alternate assessment to the PSSA. These students need to be less than 1% of our population. If the number will be higher, I must request an exemption. I am working on examining the students to ensure they fit the criteria and will be providing these names by the October 31 deadline.

ACCESS: I submitted our quarterly cost statement to ACCESS.

Social Work: The social worker, Ms. Sawyer, and I continue to work closely to assist families who have become homeless or are struggling financially. Though resources in the City of Philadelphia are limited, Ms. Sawyer was able to find affordable housing for one family and assist in completion of LIHEAP. Ms. Sawyer and I are also working on addressing school tardiness and truancy.

Student: One of our students in kindergarten was struggling emotionally. He is the sibling of another student, now in 4th grade, whose parents believed in sovereign citizenry. Despite everyone's best efforts, he had to be sent to crisis on 10/03/2022. It was recommended that he attend an inpatient program to stabilize his medications. I was able to speak with his case manager at CCTC who is working on making sure outpatient mental health is in place along with the appropriate medications. Upon return, he will be placed in Ms. Lerner's class to learn the skills necessary to be successful in the general education class.

Federal Programs Report – Dr. Alex Schuh and Zoe Groff

Federal Programs Coordinator (Dr. Schuh) and Assistant Coordinator (Zoe Groff from School Frontiers) have continued to focus on a number of projects, on a variety of timelines:

1. The Federal Programs Coordinator and team are continuing to track spending and invoicing for federal funds, including federal Title funds for 2021-22, ESSER II funds, and ARP ESSER funds (including Act 24 funds and ARP Homeless funds). Note that the **ARP ESSER grants have been approved by PDE and funds can be disbursed** according to the grant model and guidelines.
 - The approved ARP ESSER plans have been posted on the school's website, in accordance with federal and state law.
 - DeLoitte will audit/monitor the ESSER grants beginning in the 2022-23 school year- dates have not been announced; assume in Spring some time.
 - PDE is recommending that schools consider submitting revised ESSER II and ARP ESSER plans if they know that they have changes that they want to make to their original plans.
2. On August 1, 2022, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) announced a School Mental Health and Safety and Security grant for \$140,000. This grant was submitted on August 30. We are still awaiting the funding award announcement.
3. On September 28, 2022, the Consolidated Title grant applications was submitted through the newly integrated myPDEsuite. MACS was approved for the new Cohort 11 grant from PDE (and the USED), for \$495,000 per year for 5 years (\$2.475 million). Cohort 11 will serve grades 3 to 12. In October, Dr. Schuh and Zoe Groff met with Transition Coordinator, Stephanie Pellegrino, to discuss internship and apprenticeship opportunities for high school students. We will be meeting with the high school guidance counselors and administration to plan a pilot program using grant funding opportunities for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. The Comprehensive Plan and its many subcomponents were posted to the school's website on July 30, 2022, for a 28-day public comment period. The Comprehensive Planning Committee met in July to discuss the plan. The plan, with Board approval, was submitted through eGrants on August 30. This plan had three minor required updates and has been resubmitted (Oct. 6).
5. The Charter Renewal Application guidelines were posted to Epicenter in May. We are currently submitting additional required documentation through Epicenter.
6. The Ready to Learn Grant for \$64,875.00 was submitted in eGrants for the 2022-23 school year. The grant purchases additional student computers, online learning software and data analysis.
7. Throughout September and October, the administration team met weekly to discuss the Comprehensive Plan, Charter Renewal, ESSER grants and the Charter School Annual Report.
8. Dr. Schuh and Zoe Groff have been attending the weekly admin meetings and discussing federal programs-related issues. We are also meeting with administration and reviewing invoiced expenses in an online database.
9. Dr. Schuh and Zoe Groff attended the Pennsylvania Charter Schools Conference in September.

School Counselor's Report – Ms. Aimee Bogan

Elementary and Middle School - Jaime Donovan and Kelly Brennan

Weekly counseling sessions and rapport building

- Individual, small group, lunch bunch and whole class SEL lessons
- Daily check ins with students in need of more support
- Emphasis placed on: mindfulness and emotional regulation. For elementary emphasis was placed on bullying and what it means to be a friend

LeGare/

High School Application Process (8th grade only)

- Sending advocacy folders once students have applied for high school

Minding your Mind (7th and 8th grade)

- Assembly for students in middle school grades
 - Emphasis on mental health, anxiety, self-esteem, trusted adults etc.
- Confirming dates for speaker to come in for students in grades 3 - 6

Meetings

- Grade Leader Meetings: weekly to discuss any student concerns
- JJC Services: monthly to discuss students/ collaborate
- Scheduling and facilitating parent meetings to discuss academic, SEL, behavioral or overall student concerns
- CSR: student progress and implementation of action plans

PASS program (7th and 8th grade)

- Met with PASS representative to discuss steps for implementation
 - Ms. Bogan will begin uploading student information so we can survey students and assess SEL, academic, individual and diverse student needs

Hispanic Heritage Month

- Concluded Hispanic Heritage month on October 15th
 - Each day, emphasis placed on an influential Hispanic person and/or country spotlight

Red Ribbon Week

- Counselor lessons will focus on drug and bullying prevention

Academic Support

- Providing strategies for staying organized and time management
- Working with students during lunch who may need extra time/support
- Creating homework charts to assist with student organization

High School - Ms. Gyuriska, Ms. Jackson, Ms. Bogan

Ms. G

Meetings – GPHA; IEP; Counseling Team; Grade; NHS; Leadership

Other - CCP - assisting cadets with applications. Spring registration begins 10/24/22; Helping NHS Seniors with NHS Scholarship; Assisting some seniors with FAFSA and Common App; NHS Field Trip to Eastern State Penitentiary 10/19/22; Individual sessions; Mediations; Parent conferences; College Fair 9/30/22; Back to School Night 9/29/22; PSAT/SAT School Day 10/12/22; ISM Boat Building recruiting; 11th grade transition planning with Pellegrino for SPED cadets; Philly Goat Project field trip 10/18/22 for cadets interested in working with animals; Fall Dance 10/28/22 2:30 - 5 PM in the Mess Hall

Ms. Jackson

- Individual counseling, including mandatory counseling; Meeting with seniors one-on-one for post-secondary planning; Cadet mediations; Meeting with students with failing grades to determine a plan for success; Planning small group book club for freshmen; SAT/PSAT preparations, proctoring, mailing; New teacher training; College counseling for seniors

Ms. Bogan

- The College & Career Fair was a huge success. 15 schools/programs participated.
- PSAT/SAT School day took place on 10/12/22. Attendance was high 251/264 showed up for testing.
 - "When students have the opportunity to test at their own school, they're more likely to take the test. By providing a college admission test in school, you're cultivating a college-going culture for the entire school."
- Parent meetings; Problem solving/consults with teachers; Meeting with high-need students; Coordinating with Mr. Karpin to get Credit recovery started on 10/1; FAFSA classroom lessons with Ms. Jackson on 10/20; Virtual FAFSA night for parents 11/10/22; Entering new student transcripts/grades

Athletic Director's Report – Kevin Schultz

Elementary/Middle School:

- The co-ed cross country team had its final league meet on 10.18.20 The XC Championship meet will be held on 10.26.22 at Fleuhr Park. Top 7 girls and top 7 boys will compete in the championship meet
- Girls Basketball: first game will be on 11.8.22

High School:

- The Girls Varsity Volleyball team is 10 -0! **UNDEFEATED** in their first year competing at the Varsity level. The girls are a #22 seed in the PPL Championships which start the week of 10/24.
- The JV Volleyball team has its last game on Tuesday 10.18

Facilities Report – Gerry Malkowski

- Three minor roof leaks above the gym at the high school were repaired.
- Six month asbestos inspection was completed; the three year inspections are coming up for all buildings. Capt. Cointot will look into obtaining a new asbestos company to use.
- All heating equipment preventative maintenance has been completed; all in good working condition.
- CO detectors installed in all classrooms with heating equipment.
- Roof repairs on building 11 are in progress.
- There will be some tree trimming performed this weekend at the elementary/middle school.

Closing Remarks – Capt. Scott Cointot

Capt. Cointot inquired if MACS is in need of a PR person to do videos. Both Capt. Cointot and Mr. Mattioni have a videographer contact that may come in to do professional photos/videos for the school; each will reach out regarding interest.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board met in Executive Session to discuss the expulsion of student M.S. A hearing was held for him because the parent/guardian refused to withdraw him. Mr. Damian Sammons served as the hearing officer; the board is required to approve the outcome of an expulsion hearing.

Capt. Cointot made the motion to accept the findings of the expulsion hearing of student M.S.:

FIRST: Richard Venuti

SECOND: Nathan Hauser

All were in favor (one proxy), there were no nays, and the MOTION was APPROVED unanimously.

Adjournment

Board Chairman, Capt. Scott Cointot asked for a MOTION to adjourn:

FIRST: Robert Cook

SECOND: Arthur Sulzer

All were in favor (one proxy), there were no nays, the MOTION was APPROVED unanimously; the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm.