



# Maritime Academy Charter School

2700 E. Huntingdon Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19125  
Phone: 215-427-3090

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**2700 E. HUNTINGDON STREET**  
**WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 17, 2022 - 5:00 pm**  
**IN PERSON or VIA ZOOM LINK**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86004739568?pwd=bEQwdVVONmdoR1B5ZWxGemt3cGZIUT09>

Meeting ID: 860 0473 9568 - Passcode: Lf9brn

Dial in Number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 860 0473 9568 - Passcode: 143242

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Scott Cointot, Chairman	Michele Krajewski
Mary Anne Celenza	Michael LaGrassa
Robert Cook	Michael Mattioni
Tummona Fisher	Robert Vacchiano
Nathan Hauser	Richard Venuti
Cynthia Hudson	

**PROXY**

Minerva Cruz  
Tummona Fisher  
Lew Grill

**ABSENT**

Arthur Sulzer

**MACS STAFF**

Eugene Mattioni, CEO  
Matthew Wilson, HS Principal  
Peter Saunders, ES/MS Principal  
Laura Bischoff, ES/MS Asst. Principal  
Stephen Hewitt, HS Asst. Principal  
Kimberly Bonanni, SPED Director  
Joyce Fanega, Asst. to Principals

**GUESTS**

Craig Butler, Foundations, Inc.  
Gerry Malkowski, Facilities Manager  
Dr. Alex Schuh, Federal Programs Director

**Roll Call / Review of Minutes**

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

FIRST: Capt. Louis Cavaliere

SECOND: Richard Venuti

No objections heard; all were in favor (three 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 July 2022 (amount based on 820 students):

Opening Fund Balance	\$ 5,990,773
Total Revenue	\$ 1,338,157
Total Expenditures	\$ 122,070 (due to end of year reversals)
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 7,206,860

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

MOTION: Dr. Robert Vacchiano

SECOND: Michele Krajewski

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

### **Board Chairman’s Report – Capt. Scott Cointot**

Nothing to report at this time. Working on fencing issue with Gerry Malkowski. There are a couple of open items on the WIP Report; one is complete, one is in progress.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Discussion of Appraisal Reports on Buildings 201, 202 and 222).**

#### **CEO Report – Eugene Mattioni**

##### **Status of Buildings 201, 202, and 222**

A confidential discussion was held by the board regarding buildings 201, 202, and 222.

##### **Fencing at High School**

We toured our high school with Chairman Scott Cointot and agreed we should make some repairs and modifications to the existing fencing. This should be accomplished within the next 30 days. We will have better control of our school area, trash disposal, and overall cleanliness of our school grounds.

##### **MACS Foundation Board Meeting**

The MACS Foundation Board has met to discuss creation of an Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC). We are very close to submission of that documentation to the IRS. This will create a vehicle in which tax dollars can be donated to MACS. We hope to get this submitted within the next 30 days. Our legal counsel, Julie Berson and Franca Tavella, along with Craig Butler, have been of assistance in getting this accomplished.

##### **Cohort 11 - 21st Century Nita M. Lowey Grant**

We are pleased to announce that MACS will receive the Cohort 11 Nita M. Lowey Grant. Many thanks to Dr. Schuh, Zoe Groff and our Administrative Team for securing this magnificent grant for our Cadets. We are one in thirteen Philadelphia schools that was awarded this grant. A special thanks to Mr. Hewitt and Ms. Fanega in their oversight of our CCLC grants. The grant is in the amount of \$495,000 annually for five years. Our partners in this grant include the Independence Seaport Museum, Gloucester City Sail, the Discovery Center, Glenn Foerd, and MACS’ Sea Cadet Program. This provides for significant afterschool and summer enrichment and academic programming at MACS. We are also seeking some additional grant funds for a Mental Health and Safety Grant.

##### **Ziegler Financing**

We met with Scott Rolfs, Managing Director and Erin Wait, Vice President to seek out Zeigler as a potential bond financier for MACS. We have attached their analysis. MACS has a strong balance sheet with probably BB or better rating for Bond Financing. The timeline is very favorable - 75 days with a committed working group. We were favorably impressed with Ziegler. They have a great deal of experience financing school projects throughout the United States. We have also reached out to Garrett Miller at Washington Square and Bancroft Capital. Our school has a strong balance sheet with good management and we are looked upon with favor by Bond lenders.

##### **WISTA and USCG Birthday Celebration**

MACS was well represented at the WISTA meeting at the Union League in recognition of women leadership in the maritime industry. The program was led by our own Board Member, Ms. Cynthia Hudson. A special treat for MACS was to have former student Ahdiyah Robey, MACS graduate and soon to be licensed third mate and Graduate of SUNY Maritime College, sit at our table for the USCG Birthday. Also present was MACS graduate

Eric Hernandez, USCG. The day honored Admiral Linda F. Fagan, 27th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. Admiral Fagan was well known to MACS as a graduation speaker at our school.

### **MACS Summer Programs**

MACS had a full summer program at the ES/MS and HS. Enrichment and educational programs, credit recovery and sports. Many thanks to Mr. Hewitt and all staff that participated at ES/MS and HS.

### **MACS Kindergarten**

We are pleased to have two kindergarten classes in our newly renovated building 106. Ms. Purcell will take a class and Ms. Spencer will have a class. We are now in fact a K-12 School. We will take some special safety precautions of these new MACS students. Capt. Cavaliere asked what our enrollment goal is; we have until October 15th to request a 10% increase. We currently have a student enrollment of more than 820 to have a buffer if we lose students at the beginning of the school year.

### **Best High Schools in Pennsylvania**

MACS has been recognized as a Best High School in Pennsylvania by U.S. News & World Reports; a nice recognition to receive!

### **MACS Special Education Services**

MACS Special Education Program was recognized for the second year by the National Association of Special Education Teachers. A thank you to the leadership of Ms. Bonanni and our special education team; the best in Pennsylvania!

### **The North Wind**

MACS will resume the North Wind Voyage on 8/21 - 8/23 for a trip to Bristol, PA. In the chaperone seat will be high school teacher, Mr. Lott. We will also start our planning for the fall season.

### **School Opening**

We have a full schedule of Professional Development for August 22 through August 26. August 30 is the first day for our 9th grade. August 31 is the first day of school for all students. We shall remain a school where the culture is "Rich In Kindness". We intend to strengthen our maritime studies and give hands-on experience on the water with the sailing vessel North Wind. We shall be attentive to the mental health and emotional needs of our cadets, teachers and administration. We shall look after and care for one another. We shall teach, study hard, and learn. We are also going to have some fun, enjoy one another's company, participate in all activities, and participate in sports or as a fan. We shall enjoy the Arts and Music. **Let's have a Great Year!**

### **Partnership with CCP**

On August 18, 2022, MACS administration and teachers Chief David Hentnick, Chief Michael Peitsinovski, Principal Matthew Wilson, and CEO Eugene Mattioni will attend the opening of the Technology Center at 48th and Market Streets. The course offerings at the Career and Advanced Technology Center will focus on career readiness and creating a thriving workforce in our city's transportation, manufacturing and health care fields. Opening in 2022, the Career and Advanced Technology Center will not only include state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities, but also spaces and technology that will be completely open for public use. MACS intends to be a working partner with CCP and its Technology Center. We intend to send MACS students for college credit at the technology center. We want to develop a Maritime related program at their Technology Center.

### **High School Report – Matthew Wilson**

- The high school is currently fully staffed except for one recent special education teacher vacancy. We aggressively filled open positions at the beginning of summer knowing that there would be teacher shortage come August/September. New staff:
  - Mr. Jordan Karpin (9<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-AP World History/Geography & AP U.S. History)
  - Mrs. Jennifer Jackson (9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade School Counselor)
  - Mr. Michael Peitsinovski, Retired Navy Chief (11<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics and Government & Psychology)
  - Ms. Micaela Pozo Castro (10<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra II & 11<sup>th</sup> grade SAT Prep)
  - Mr. Mark Wheeler (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade English)
  - Mr. David Gosse (Building Substitute) - has boat building and environmental science experience
- Spring Keystone Scores were released. Algebra and Literature showed growth. Biology had a large decline from last year. Interventions addressing deficiencies were included in our school improvement plan and will be reviewed again within the respective departments upon return.

- We have enhanced our science department curriculum by adding more hands-on learning activities and doubling the number of labs. Ms. Stead (9<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-AP Biology & AP Environmental Science) attended a summer institute on lab implementation and had the opportunity to collaborate with an environmental engineer. Ms. Stead plans to have professionals within the industry come into her classroom throughout the year.
- AP U.S History will be using a new supplementary text that is completely aligned with the standard AP curriculum. The content, rigor, and prompts will help our cadets be more prepared for the end of year AP exam.
- We have secured dates for annual events including prom, picture day, Red Cross blood drive, graduation venue, job fair etc.
- On Wednesday, August 25, we are holding our 9<sup>th</sup> grade and new student orientation. Cadets and families meet staff, learn about the school, and discuss Maritime's expectations. Cadets will also buy their uniform, receive their Chromebook, roster, locker information, agenda book, and other items they will need for the school year.
- Graduate Lucas Santos was recognized in the U.S Naval Sea Cadet's national publication *Seafarer*. Cadet Santos was our first cadet to make Chief Petty Officer.
- We want to increase the Maritime themed curriculum.

### **Elementary School Report – Peter Saunders/Laura Bischoff**

#### **Curriculum Updating Complete:**

During the summer months, we revamped our curriculum. With the help of several teachers, our reading specialist, Nicole Wenger, our literacy coach, Susan Ostrich, and our new math specialist, Janiessa Fuller, we were able to redo all of our scope and sequences for all four of our core subjects from 1st to 8th grade. With aligned text series in all grades and rewritten curricula, teachers will have a much easier time planning and assessing this school year.

#### **Home and School:**

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, we had our first home and school meeting with our new board members. At this meeting, the new officers got to meet each other and we began to plan out some events for the year. A big item that they would like to try and do is running a designer bag bingo. We have done this in the past and they would like to try and tackle it again.

#### **2021 vs 2022 Spring PSSA Scores:**

As mentioned at our last meeting, we did see growth across most areas. The 8th grade in particular saw a nice amount of improvement across all three tested subjects. An area of concern is 7th grade math. Last year, the 7th grade math position was unstable and we needed to use three different teachers for extended periods of time. This is probably the biggest contributing factor to the decrease in proficient scores. As of today, ES/MS is fully staffed.

### **CLC and ESSERS Funding Report – Stephen Hewitt/Joyce Fanega**

- The summer program at the Elementary School and High School ended last week. We are thankful to our staff members who worked the programs so successfully again this summer. So many high school cadets earned credits while elementary school cadets enjoyed the remediation and enrichment of the summer classes.
- We are so excited to announce that Maritime Academy was selected to receive the Cohort 11 grant (which is anticipated to start on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>). This grant will allow for after-school activities for cadets in Kindergarten and Grades 3 through 12. Cohort 10 will continue to serve cadets in Grades 1 and 2. As we finalize the details for the administration of this new grant, we plan for the programs that will roll out this fall. We will use remaining ESSERS funding in that transition.
- We are meeting with the PDE program officer this Friday.
- 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** = 151 current + 8 new = 159

**Total Number of ESL Students** = 62 active, 23 monitored

#### **Special Education Staffing:**

Ms. Gara, our high school transition coordinator, resigned on July 28, 2022 and accepted a position with the School District of Philadelphia. As Ms. Pellegrino, a special education teacher at the high school, has had experience with transition, we offered her the position, and she has accepted. We are currently still seeking a teacher for our upper

grade full-time special education classroom. This is a challenge as there is a teacher shortage, especially in special education.

### **Extended School Year (ESY):**

ESY ended on 8/4/2022. We had 53 cadets attend for the summer.

### **Transportation:**

We submitted our transportation requests on August 8, 2022, to the School District of Philadelphia. These requests are for door-to-door, private placements, and high school special education students. Our hope is that if we submit earlier than required, the district will set up the transportation in advance of our start date.

### **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 five main 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.
  - PDE is recommending that schools consider submitting revised ESSER plans if they know that they have changes that they want to make to their original plans.
2. 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. The program is expected to begin in October.
3. 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 must be approved by the Board prior to submission to the state (in the online FRCPP system in PDE’s mypdeapps). **Due August 30, 2022.**
  - a. The Charter Renewal Application guidelines were posted to Epicenter in May. We are currently submitting required documentation through Epicenter.
  - b. The Charter Renewal Application Narrative and required attachments have been completed and uploaded to Epicenter (through August 10<sup>th</sup> submissions).
  - c. In July, Special Education student files, progress monitoring evidence, tiered instruction evidence and screening evidence were completed and uploaded to Epicenter.
4. The Charter School Annual Report has been submitted on time in the FRCPP Planning Portal. This report had two minor required updates and has been resubmitted (Aug. 11).
5. 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. We are currently working on this grant due August 31. Will pay for counseling tools and possibly pay for a security guard at HS.
  - Throughout July, the administration team met weekly to discuss the Comprehensive Plan, Charter Renewal, ESSER grants and the Charter School Annual Report.
  - 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.

### **School Counselor’s Report – Ms. Aimee Bogan**

#### **Elementary and Middle School - Jaime Donovan and Kelly Brennan**

#### **CLC Program**

- Working in the morning and afternoon CLC program - Assisting with arrivals and departures; Helping struggling students with mathematics and RELA work; Filling in for teachers who are absent; Afternoon health and fitness program; Creating rapport with incoming cadets for Fall 2022; Providing support to cadets that are having behavior challenges during summer CLC

### **2022 Suicide Prevention Summit**

- Both counselors will be attending virtual conference from August 19th - 21st - Attending 13 sessions to improve knowledge and skills on suicide prevention - topics include: guided discovery in recovery - oriented cognitive therapy, suicide prevention, technology integration in suicide prevention, posttraumatic growth in dealing with suicide and loss, understanding and preventing suicide in young adults / adults, best practices, etc.

### **Counselor Corner**

- Collaboration on a new resource link on school website to include: counselor contact information; resources, tips and ESL strategies and links for parents & students

### **ESY**

- Offering individual counseling to students - Emphasis on academic, social, emotional goals; Continued rapport building and goal setting

### **Weekly counselor collaboration**

- Communicating about upcoming school year calendar in combination with guidance lesson structure
- Preparing for back to school counselor responsibilities
- Creating lesson curriculum plan for the upcoming school year

### **PBIS**

- Kindergarten focus to start - Implementation of a PBIS program for upcoming academic year

### **High School**

#### **Summer School Wrap-Up –**

- Entering completed credits into PowerSchool
- Summer School “report cards” mailed home to guardians
- Analysis of credit needs and developing plans
- Scheduled parent meetings for the week of 8/15

#### **Organizing events for upcoming school year**

- Minding Your Mind (mental health assembly) September 7 12:30-2:30
- College & Career Fair - September 30th 1-3 PM
- Philly High School Fair Friday, October 14th (4-7pm) & Saturday, October 15th (10am-3pm) - registration complete
- SAT School Day date changed to Oct. 12th - materials ordered
- In the process of setting up Proud Teens of Philly program
- “Grading for Equity”

### **Scheduling**

- Worked with special education to develop rosters
- Organized sections based on rising student numbers, teacher, and assignment changes
- Elective requests entered into PS
- Week of 8/15 dedicate to scheduling

### **Preparing for Role Change**

- Developing list of training items
- Welcome letter
- Communication with counseling team about meetings through the year, ideas, and support

### **Miscellaneous**

- Updated GPAs in College & Career Spreadsheet
- Main office support
- Scholarship searches

### **Athletic Director’s Report – Kevin Schultz**

#### **Elementary School:**

##### **Fall Sports**

- Cross Country will be coached by Ms. Carroll and Ms. Donovan.
- We are in need of a coed soccer coach - email to all staff will be sent week of 8/15.

#### **High School:**

- Girls Varsity Volleyball will be added to the fall sports line-up. The team will be coached by Ms. Lukasienski. I met with the PPL Volleyball Chairperson last week and was told that we cannot host Varsity

Volleyball competitions at our HS gymnasium due to the low ceiling, and the proximity of the basketball backboards in relationship to the volleyball court. Also, the baseline of the court is not the required six feet needed.

- New uniforms have been ordered for the Girls Varsity Volleyball team.
- The Girls JV Volleyball team will be coached by Mr. Jason Clark.
- We will also still be sending Varsity athletes to Kensington HS for Football and Soccer. (PPL CO-OP Program)

**Additional Notes:** New Boys Varsity uniforms have been ordered for the Basketball team. We are currently in the process of trying to acquire a new home basketball court and varsity volleyball court for our programs respectively. If anyone has a contact or a lead on a gymnasium, please contact Mr. Schultz. We currently use Juniata Recreation Center and it will still be available in the event that a new facility is not found.

### **Facilities Report – Gerry Malkowski**

- All Building certifications and certificates for the school year have been completed.
- HVAC units for all buildings are operating correctly.
- All filters for water fountains and HVAC systems have been replaced.
- In the process of scrubbing and waxing all cafeterias and hallways.
- L&I inspection for fire and safety - 0 violations in building 106 and 107. Concern is to remove any covers to door windows and curtains on windows.

### **Closing Remarks – Capt. Scott Cointot**

Capt. Cointot thanked the staff that worked all summer. We will be doing another NorthWind sailing trip as stated earlier. One of the teachers stated that the students enjoy being on the boat sailing.

### **Cadet Handbook 2022-2023**

Board Chairman, Capt. Scott Cointot asked for a MOTION to approve the 2022-2023 Cadet Handbook:

MOTION: Mary Anne Celenza

SECOND: Louis Cavaliere

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

### **Comprehensive Plan 2022-2025**

Board Chairman, Capt. Scott Cointot asked for a MOTION to approve the 2022-2025 Comprehensive Plan:

MOTION: Nathan Hauser

SECOND: Robert Cook

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

### **Roof Restoration Proposal for Building 11**

Board Chairman, Capt. Scott Cointot asked for a MOTION to approve the Roof Restoration Proposal for Building 11 submitted by Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc.:

MOTION: Richard Venuti

SECOND: Dr. Robert Vacchiano

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

### **Adjournment**

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

FIRST: Richard Venuti

SECOND: Nathan Hauser

All were in favor (three proxy), there were no nays, the MOTION was APPROVED unanimously; the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 pm.