

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - October 11, 2025

### Individuals in Attendance:

Gabriel Kirmani  
Trey Cox  
David King  
Rob Constantine  
Marian Reagan  
Craig Cunningham  
Deb Eustis-Grandy  
Sadhana Prasad  
Joel Pike  
Alicia Jalbert  
Ray Rice (virtual)  
Brad Choyt (virtual)

M. Reagan called the meeting to order at 8:04am.

No Public Comments were received.

There was acknowledgement of a letter written to the Board signed by several parents of current MSSM students.

M. Reagan tabled the agenda item to approve the August meeting minutes.

J. Pike made a motion to accept the Leadership Team report, seconded by D. King.

Passed unanimously.

Discussion:

R. Constantine explained that absenteeism is a national problem. MSSM has seen a significant up tick in absenteeism. 5 students currently have absenteeism rates over federal definition for chronic absenteeism of 10%. MSSM is designed as an in-person experiential learning.

D. King - Is absenteeism connected with certain times of the year? Answer: No.

M. Reagan - Students come from a system designed to accommodate absenteeism.

A. Jalbert - Are there different codes for different types of excused absences?

R. Constantine - Yes, beginning we are beginning to track different types of absences.

M. Reagan - Are many of the absences full day?

R. Rice & B. Choyt - Shared documents via Zoom regarding student absences.

B. Choyt - Chronic absenteeism is a post pandemic issue - trying to get back to pre pandemic attendance levels

R. Rice - Lacking a sense of belonging could be cause of absenteeism for some students

R. Constantine - How do we create an educational experience that is joyful?

M. Reagan - Don't wish away the current opportunity for learning.

D. Eustis-Grandy - Double edge sword regarding student test scores because we are expected to have the "the best" scores because we have "the best" kids.

SAT scores are a better national standard to measure

A. Jalbert - Tell the story of joy and belonging along with test scores

J. Pike - Very real & raw report. Thoroughness put into the report is appreciated

A. Jalbert - Do we have a plan to engage with 6-8 graders?

S. Durango - One constraint that we face is that students learn about MSSM in 8th grade, but many are only enrolled in Pre-Algebra (Algebra 1 in 8th grade is the standard for MSSM admission as 9th graders).

Students with certain scores tend to do very well which translates to mission appropriate students.

MSSM takes "cream of the crop" students yet we also take risks on students that may have potential to excel perhaps without the test scores.

How do we adapt with the rest of the educational landscape in Maine?

Vote to accept Management Report. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.

#### Committee Reports

- Advancement - R. Rice  
Met 9/16 and discussed how to address financial stressors  
Next meeting is in October
- Governance - T. Cox  
Statute for residency got changed - draft of policy to follow  
School temperature policy - now required under school law  
Check to see if all policies are updated on website

- Audit - J. Pike  
Process in which the audit subcommittee is laid out in the bylaws would benefit from being updated  
Acknowledged that there is a value added in bringing the auditor to speak to us  
Commended Rob and Marie on a great job on preparing well & very timely  
Request for Proposals - needs to be done in the upcoming year  
Value of keeping the same auditor for historic knowledge
- Finance & Facilities - D. King  
Met on 10/8  
We will get back to 4th Thursday at 1:30 after November, December holidays  
Financials are right on projection for 25/26  
Projection sheet was added last year - its a good way to see where we project we will end the year
- Student Welfare - S. Prasad  
Two meetings so far  
Good discussion on student enrollment planning  
Ideal number of students suggested as 120  
Takes many factors into account including balancing old/new student ration for continuity  
Acknowledged some rough patches, yet also lots of changes/challenges  
Feel confident that we will back to joy  
Meetings are 2nd Wednesday of each month
- Program - P. Stancioff - M. Reagan  
Campus has been busy - less progress than desired on the next phase of strategic plan  
Currently working on the mission statement - really about it!  
'Where curiosity meets challenge in our community and beyond!'

#### Action Agenda

- J. Pike moved to accept 24-25 MSSM Draft Financial Statements as presented on 10/10 and pending minor revisions (pg 6 & 25) as well as cleaning up consistency throughout. The acceptance is also subject to the final 2025 compliance supplement being issued. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.
- Discussion regarding numbers used for going concern noted in the audit. Ultimately, it is the discretion of the auditor.
- T. Cox moved to enter into Executive Session for discussion of real property matters in accordance with Maine Statute Title 1, Chapter 13, Paragraph 405, Section 6C. Seconded by D. King. Passed unanimously.

- Exited executive session at at 10:31am
- T. Cox moved to enter into executive session for discussion of personnel matters in accordance with Maine Statute Title 1, Chapter 13, Paragraph 405, Section 6A. Seconded by T. Cox. Passed unanimously.
- Exited executive session at 11:49am
- J. Pike moved to adjourn at 11:50am, seconded by C. Cunningham. Passed unanimously.