

MNIC ELA Campus
300 Industrial Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413

Minutes

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday January 13, 2009

4:00 p.m.

Held at 300 Industrial Blvd., Minneapolis, MN (ELA)

Membership: Kat Anthony, Susan Knittel, Jama Farah, Hassan Hilowle, Kaha Mohamed, Kassim Mohamed, Takara Spaulding, Reggie Womack

Ex officio: Kevin Byrne, Steven Oates, Chanda Smith

Note: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise stated. Items distributed at the meeting include: Agenda; unapproved board minutes from December 2, 2008 and December 9, 2008, MNIC Jobs College Concept Paper.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Knittel called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. There will be another meeting January 27th. Those present were asked to silence cell phones and refrain from talking or passing notes during the meeting.

Members Present: Kat Anthony, Susan Knittel, Jama Farah, Takara Spaulding, Reggie Womack Members Absent: Hassan Hilowle, Kaha Mohamed, Kassim Mohamed.

Ex officio present: Kevin Byrne

Others Present: Amy Libman, Becky Hampton, Stephanie Nelson, Melissa Kappenman, Omar Fiqi, Ali A. Egale, Don Link, George Sand, Beth Ottaviani, Kathy Reamer, Carrie Otis, Mandi Reamer, Janet White, Oliver White, Steve Bosacker.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Under treasurer's report, add item to "add a second signatory to MNIC's bank account".

Add "Accept resignations" prior to election

Mr. Womack moved to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Anthony seconded. Passed.

III. REVIEW BOARD MINUTES FROM 12-02-2008 and 12-09-2008

Minutes from December 9, 2008 Meeting: Mr. Womack **moved to accept minutes from December 9, 2008. Mr. Farah seconded. Passed.**

IV. STATE OF BOARD AND CANDIDATES: VOTING

Accept board member resignations. **Ms. Anthony moved to accept 3 resignations and one removed board member. Mr. Womack seconded. Passed.** (Kaha Mohammed, Kassim Mohamed and Hassan Hilowle resigned from the Board; John Breyfogel was removed from the Board in an earlier Board meeting).

Proposed slate of Board candidates:

- **Teacher position (1):** Beth Ottaviani, Carrie Otis, Kathy Reamer

- **Community Positions (2):** Omar Fiqi, Ali Ali (former employee, and technology consultant, Abdighani Ali (was voted off the board; former employee, and Director of Benider Academy), Jerry Moore (Executive Director of the Jordan Area Community Council); Kenneth Turner (works at MCTC in the Urban Studies program).
- **Staff (1):** Oliver White

Presentations by those running for the teacher position

Beth Ottaviani – teaching at MNIC for 2 years in reading and writing. She is interested in running to help build a more cohesive school, form a way for teachers to support one another, share resources and practices. She wants to be proactive to help the school be more successful.

Carrie Otis – teaching at MNIC since last Fall, starting at UTEC, then moved to ELA. She teaches science and math and will help with the CAN program. She believes in the purpose of the school, wants the school to be in a stronger position and would like to help with financial improvements.

Kathy Reamer – teaching at MNIC almost 5 years at many sites; has seen many changes at MNIC. Well versed with the school, able to help with communication.

Presentations by those running for the two community positions

Omar Fiqi – Worked at MNIC for almost one year in math and technology. Also he is a religious leader in the local community. He knows families with students at ELA.

Ali Ali – Worked for MNIC for 4 years supporting student recruitment and some operations. He knows students. He is interested in helping MNIC by serving on the board.

Jerry Moore – Not present. Serves on Jordan Area Community Council

Kenneth Turner – Not present.

Presentations by those running for the one staff/at-large position

Oliver White – Works at Unity house as well as other sites. 37 years involved with church ministry and serves on a number of councils. He has been a member of many boards for many years. He wants to serve on MNIC's Board because his experience can help the MNIC board. His dedication to MNIC will continue whether or not he is elected to the Board.

Mr. Womack moved to have secret ballots for the election. Mr. Farah seconded. Passed.

Ms. Spaulding moved for a 5 minute break. Ms. Anthony seconded. The meeting resumed at 4:32 PM, after 2 minutes.

After a request from the audience, the board by consensus delayed the election of the fourth Staff/At-Large position until the next Board meeting, to allow for more candidates.

Ms. Knittel called for volunteers to count ballots: Mr. Sand and Mr. Link volunteered. **Mr. Womack moved that Mr. Bosacker count with Mr. Sand and Mr. Link as witnesses, Mr. Farah seconded. Passed.**

First Vote:

- Teacher Position: Kathy Reamer: 2 votes, Carrie Otis: 1 vote, Beth Ottaviani: 2 votes. Ms. Reamer and Beth were tied.
- Community Positions: Abdighani Ali was disallowed due to recent vote to eliminate him from the Board. Ali Ali: 4 votes, Omar Fiqi: 4 votes, Jerry Moore: 1 vote. Ali Ali and Omar Fiqi were elected.

Run-off Vote for Teacher position:

- Kathy Reamer: 3 votes, Beth Ottaviani: 2 votes. Kathy Reamer was elected.

After announcing results of the election Ms. Knittel invited the three new members to join the Board. These three came and took their seats on the board.

At the next meeting board terms will be set for each newly filled board seat.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT/UPDATED BUDGET

Mr. Sand requested the board clarify what the Board needs to know about finances in the board finance report. The Finance Committee is working on a budget based on 385 ADMs. Cash flow is tight. It seems now that the school does not need to tap a line of credit in January, perhaps holding off until March. Mr. Sand and Susan Airhart (DL) will meet with a financial institution to seek a short term loan. Income was greater than expected. June through the summer is the tightest time for cash flow. MNIC is averaging about 412 students right now. The legislature holds back 10% of the budget. The financial committee is concerned that the State will increase the amount of hold back next year.

Mr. Byrne stated that charter schools are seeking to get the same benefit Regular districts get to borrow State money for cash flow.

Next board meeting specific figures will be presented.

The Board needs to come up with a budget for next year based on an appropriate number of ADMs. As of this time the school does not have to make cuts, but spending will be restricted to keep within the new budget.

Select a signatory for bank account

The school needs another signatory besides Mr. Byrne. The Board chair is typically the second signatory. **Mr. Womack moved to make the MNIC Board Chair the second signatory for the school. Ms. Spaulding seconded. Passed, with Ms. Knittel abstaining.**

VI. PROPOSAL FOR MNIC JOBS COLLEGE (K. BYRNE)

Mr. Byrne seeks Board approval to develop a full proposal from a concept to enhance MNIC's school programs. The proposal concept is to create a post-secondary institution to complement MNIC's jobs/internship high school focus. People who hear the idea think a jobs college is a great idea. This would involve some partnerships with other organizations to provide post-secondary credit for students and adults to prepare for jobs/careers. This would be similar to the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) model. OIC's have been operating since the 1960s. American Indian OIC's certified nursing assistant program in Minneapolis has a waiting list of 200 right now. This is a very popular approach.

The MNIC Jobs College Concept Paper was passed out. This institution would partner with MNIC to reinforce student incentives for academic and jobs achievement. This institute could work in tandem with high school credit and funding, such as with PSEO. Other schools could send students to this institute. Mr. Byrne reviewed a list of possible programs.

MNIC has work coordinators with experience to help make this successful.

Mr. Byrne would like to have this institution started by next Fall, if this is feasible. If this is not feasible, MNIC can continue to build its partnerships for internships and jobs training. Other students have post-secondary ambitions different from this approach, for which MNIC staff are working to support those ambitions.

Ms. Spaulding suggested this approach could be very good for students who are not really ready for regular college.

Ms. Spaulding requested and moved to take a 5 minute break at 5:00 PM. Ms. Anthony seconded. Passed.

Would MNIC/Institution need another site to operate? Not initially. UTEC, Sabathani, ELA would have space available for this program. This institute could join in with other organizations. MNIC will not do away with any current programs if this is started.

Amy commented that many students use Pell Grants to pay for remedial courses. This is a poor use of the grant, doing this does not help earn college degree credits. These students need jobs training so they can get jobs to help pay for college and living expenses. Ms. Anthony suggested that students who might graduate in January could continue learning and building skills and credit towards college.

Questions from the Board focused on how the institution would operate in relation to MNIC, how would it be funded, could it operate in tandem with MNIC programs. Mr. Byrne has few answers to these questions at this time. He needs a motion to support continued research to develop the concept into a full proposal.

This institute would have its own budget and funding. If ELA enrollment continues to shrink, other resources are needed to pay for the facility. Mr. Byrne believes this program would create benefit to MNIC through regular high school student recruitment.

Ms. Anthony moved to allow Mr. Byrne and others to further explore this institute concept, with reports brought back to the Board. Ms. Reamer seconded. Passed.

Side discussion about taking minutes for the Board: Mr. Bosacker will meet with Amy, Beth and Carrie to train them to take Board Minutes.

VII. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Ms. Knittel requested people be on time for committee meetings, to work hard and be positive.

- Strategic Planning
- Administrator Job Description Research
- Policies Committee

Mr. Bosacker commented that what is developed by these committees needs to be tested and compatible with other plans and commitments in the school.

VIII. ATTENDANCE UPDATE/RECRUITING: SUSAN NATALA AND NICOLE HARRIS UPDATE FOR ALL SITES

No report at this time.

IX. TRAINING: Set a date No action at this time.

X. DONATION ACCEPTANCE (2)

Donation from Shiloh Ministries International: the church forgave \$5,500 off of the November rent at Shiloh.

Ms. Reamer moved to accept the \$5,500 donation off the rent. Mr. Farah seconded. Passed.

XI. BOARD'S STAND AS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL, OPEN TO ALL ETHNIC GROUPS ACCORDING TO RULES OF THE STATE

Announcement to all MNIC staff: MNIC accepts students of all ethnic, religious or other orientations. Ensure that all staff understand this.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Womack moved to adjourn. Ms. Reamer seconded. Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Next meeting will be at Unity House at 4:15 PM on January 27th, 2009.

Submitted by Stephen C. Bosacker, Secretary.