

ICP Board Meeting Highlights

April 10, 2014



April Minutes Summary...

- * **School and Budget Reports**
- * **Gym Roof and Facility Repairs**
- * **ED/Board Evaluations**
- * **Attendance Policy**
- * **Policy & Procedure Revisions**

Action Items:

- **Approval** of March Minutes
- **Approval** of funds for facility repairs

Reports:

School Report – Dan encouraged the Board to approve the 2014-15 budget by May so that offer letters can be sent out to staff in a timely manner. Dan also proposed changes to administrative staff hours, which included decreasing ED hours and increasing both Head Teacher and School Counselor hours to .5 FTE, and increasing the Administrative Assistant position to a full time position. Teachers are planning science themes for next year and working to build a strong base in the primary science curriculum to ensure a smooth transition to the upper grades.

509J Report – Dan, Elisa and Erik will meet with the District on April 17th to discuss the details of our charter renewal.

Budget Report – Discussed and approved funds to cover gym roof repair, play shed roof replacement, and asbestos abatement and floor replacement in the art room and 4/5 classroom. Elisa wishes to divide the Finance Manager position into two positions. She will continue to manage the budget and reporting while a new hire will take over the bookkeeping duties including handling receipts, bills and payroll.

Discussion:

Attendance Policy – Many thanks to Leonne Bannister for revising the Attendance Policy! Besides the revisions already made, the Board will add incentives to ensure that parents drop off and pick up children in a timely manner. The policy is scheduled to be approved at the May meeting and will go into effect at that point.

Board Training – The Board reviewed responses to last meeting's Board training exercise and discussed the importance of both recruiting and grooming board members to fill vacant roles. Board trainings and increased Board member preparation will help strengthen Board effectiveness.

ED & Board Evaluations – As the time for ED and Board evaluations draws near, Erik is seeking guidance from retired administrators. OSBA and the Center for Nonprofit Stewardship also offer important resources for this process.

Policy & Procedure Revisions – The Board continues to work toward overhauling M CCS policies and procedures. In addition to organizing and reviewing all policies and procedures, several new policies and procedures need to be drafted. Due to the amount of time required to complete this process, the Board is considering paying someone to complete this task.

Academic Concerns – Discussed general academic concerns that continue to surface. Several present shared their anecdotal experiences. The overall theme is a desire to improve academic excellence and meet the various needs of all students. Our Head Teacher, Barb Holt, shared her vision for both strengthening the academic program and nurturing M CCS's place-based focus as we transition to the Common Core Standards.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Meeting minutes and agendas for upcoming meetings are available on the M CCS website under "About Us" → "ICP & Board Information". You can also send questions or input to the ICP Board at board@muddycreekcharterschool.org

Common Core Q&A

What is the Common Core?

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is an education initiative designed to establish consistent national education standards. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) was initiated by state leaders and developed by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers. Traditionally, individual states have set their own educational standards. Although the states are not required to adopt the Common Core State Standards, the Federal Government has created financial incentives for states that do.

Have all the states adopted the Common Core?

Although the majority of states have adopted the CCSS, Alaska, Texas, Virginia and Nebraska have not yet adopted the CCSS. Minnesota has adopted the English/Language arts standards, but not the mathematics standards. Indiana recently decided to reverse its decision to adopt the CCSS. Oregon adopted the CCSS in October 2010.

Does the CCSS provide standards for all subjects?

No. The CCSS has only established standards for mathematics and English/Language arts. States that have adopted the CCSS will continue to use their previously adopted standards for science, social studies, health, physical education, foreign language and the arts.

Why the switch to the Common Core?

The main objective of the CCSS is to ensure that students across the nation receive a consistent standard of education and are better equipped to be successful in their chosen college and career paths. The Common Core Standards are more rigorous and require a higher level of mastery of both information and conceptual understanding. With its push to cultivate critical thinking and higher-order thinking skills, the CCSS will require teachers to help their students grasp the WHY in addition to the WHAT of every learning opportunity.

As a charter school, is M CCS required to align with the CCSS?

All Oregon charter schools will be held accountable for preparing their students to succeed on the CCSS assessments. M CCS's charter agreement with the Corvallis School District states that "The Charter School shall ensure that its students participating in the statewide assessments achieve at or above students in the same grade level as District students..." By aligning with the CCSS, M CCS will be better equipped to prepare students to successfully pass these assessments as required by our charter agreement.

What assessments are M CCS students required to take under the CCSS?

As an elementary charter school, students at M CCS are currently required to take the OAKS assessment in grades 3, 4, and 5. Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, all Oregon students (charter school students included) will be required to take an assessment that is currently being developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. The Smarter Balanced assessment will take the place of the OAKS assessment.

Will aligning with Common Core affect M CCS's mission to provide a place-based, project-based, arts-integrated approach to education?

The Board and M CCS staff will continue to work together to ensure that our mission and vision—providing "...a place-based, project based, integrated arts and science curriculum grounded in its rural agricultural setting and commitment to community service"—is upheld. It is important to understand that the Common Core is *not* a curriculum, but a set of standards. These standards will help guide instruction, but they are not a rigid requirement for how learning will take place. All schools, including M CCS, will continue to have the freedom to choose curriculum and teaching materials that both meet these standards and support their school's mission and vision.



Next Board Meeting: May 8th @ 7pm in the Community Room