



Meeting Minutes

April 12 2021 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom video conference.

Attendees

Trustees in attendance at MC²: None (due to stay at home orders)

Trustees in attendance by phone: Jodi Adams, John Sabolevski, Cindy Gallagher (excused at 6:51 PM), Amanda MacLellan, Jerry Appell, Adam Johnston

Administration:, Chris O'Reilly, Elizabeth Cardine,

Apologies:

Guests: Brooke O'Neil, Rob Huckins (parent), Vicki Burinskas - Manchester admin, Eric Snare, Alyssa Larouche, Jayden Larouche, Fran Denis (parent) Sherry Gagnon (staff), Keegan Nunley (staff), Sarah Stout (Staff), Jackson Huckins (student) Katien Hamon (potential board member), Becca, Matt Hasty (parent), Wendy Huckins (parent)

Agenda

Topics	Discussion	Decision
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM	
Approval of Agenda	<p>Amanda requested to add School Reopening as a point 5 on the agenda</p> <p>Jodi requested to add federal grant assurances following the financial report</p> <p>Jodi requested to add authorization for spending grant funds</p>	

<p>Public Time</p>	<p>Matt Hasty (comment via Zoom chat): Unfortunately I have a conflict and can't stay, however I'd like to say that this school has been an incredible journey for my son Eli Hasty. He has been at the school since 2016. There is no other school like this in my area. It would be a shame to lose it. One issue that might be causing loss of students is not being in-person. Please resume in-person learning.</p> <p>Rob Huckins, parent of Manchester campus, shared the MC2 Manchester has been a transformative experience for his son. The potential closure was disappointing. The most disappointing aspect has been a lack of communication. It has been persistent. He has reached out to school leaders in the past. Teachers, administrative assistants, staff at the school communicate but he would not know what is going on. It is a shame it is coming now as a financial issue. He is curious about reasons for the proposed closure and if they are all financial. He feels for the kids at the school and wonders what options they have. One of the beautiful things about MC2 is the diverse and alternative approach to school. It would be a shame to close. Added into the Zoom chat: "I would like to add something to my earlier comments for public record which connects to many of the sentiments already expressed here tonight, namely the school's internship program. As someone who has been a teacher for over 20 years in New Hampshire at four different high schools, MC2 is among the only schools I have seen commit to a program to this degree and to me, this is among MC2's greatest attributes from an educational and skill based perspective. So in addition to being a tight knit, connected community, the school offers tremendous value in this respect. Many educational experts talk about the value of students learning valuable, practical skills and this internship offers that for its high school students. A true loss in the midst of the overall loss of a school for these students and staff."</p> <p>Theresa, parent of the Manchester campus, "I agree with what Matt. Oscar speaks so highly of MC2 to anyone willing to listen. I know some parents interested in the school."</p> <p>Jayden, student at Manchester campus, shared that the school has helped him with the issues that he has had from past schools. He used to get physically sick with the stress from prior schools. Once he got into this school he started to feel like the stress was lower by a lot, he was able to concentrate on the things he needed to, he was able to do more than he ever could back then. Recently</p>	
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even with the COVID pandemic requiring to go online, it has skyrocketing his ability to do stuff, they understand that he learns differently, they check on him ever day. Thanks to MC2 being able to give him the resources that he needs to learn, he was able to lower his stress, it made him be able to do more and want to be there. If he were to lose this school, there is nothing he could plan for his future. He will be lost without it. The school is more like a family than a school. They treat him like he is somebody. I am important to them and they are important to me. The teachers and students are respectful. The teachers know how to manage students. If he lost the school it would mean a lot of issues on his side.

Alyssa Rouche, parent of MC2 Manchester student, MC2 has been more like a family then a school. Her son had health issues and anxiety. It was caused from him being at public school and stressing himself out to the point where he just didn't want to go anymore. Ever since then, she does not know what he is going to do if they lost the school. He thrives now. Not only have they had an impact on him, they have had an impact on her. They check on her too. They check on her family. The always make sure they are doing ok, they have become a huge part of our community.

Kim Plante (via Zoom chat) "Therese, Oscar's mom. I agree with what Matt. Oscar speaks so highly of MC2 to anyone willing to listen. I know some parents interested in the school."Hello Kim Plante here, Ryan and MaxAmelias mom. I also work at ASD in Nashua. This school has been a godsend for them. A true miracle. As I have fallen in love with this place, I have sold it to anyone who will listen. ASD is the most sought after charter in the state, and we have started recommending MC2 as an alternative to students who don't win the lottery (a significant number) and to students who can't function under the stress of the accelerated and rigorous academic program. The pandemic has slowed enrollment and many parents are pausing on decisions at this moment." Kim added orally: Her son is not being called derogatory names, he is thriving. We can't afford mental-healthwise to lose the school. Her daughter feels smart and is happy, it's a miracle. She thinks this is a bump in the road for the school. Once the pandemic ends we will see a bump in enrollment. She is selling the school to everyone who isn't doing well at her school. She thinks the school could possible flourish. She is concerned that if the Manchester branch closes, the Keene one will not be far behind.

Jaelynn Robinson, Student at MC2 campus: Shared she has been at MC2 since 2016 in 5th grade. She is in Phase 1 of high school. She has done better at MC2 than anywhere else. She cannot transfer back to a regular school. She can't do well in regular school. She works so much better with student-driven learning. To lose the school would ruin a lot of ways of learning that she finally accepted. They are like a family at MC2. It would be like saying goodbye to family members. She agrees with Kim, personally she suffers from mental illness, her advisor is very understanding and he is helping her a lot. Once she heard about the school shutting down, she started a GoFund Me and has gotten a donation of \$100 and shared an MC2 video on TikTok that has gotten likes and comments. If we show our story publicly, she is 100% sure that people are going to be willing to donate. With the pandemic nobody wants kids to suffer anymore. We are losing so much of our childhood right now.

Jackson Huckins, student at Manchester campus, shared that it would be devastating if the school shut down. He really likes it. He thinks he has changed a lot since he started going to the school. He would not show up at board meetings if he was still at his old school because he didn't care about what the board or teachers were doing. He didn't talk to his peers and didn't care all that much. He didn't do any work and got Fs through every single class until he came to MC2. He started to change things. It took a while to fix the years that he had lost because he had no credits. He developed a strong bond with the school and the people in it, and the teachers. He loves all of his teachers, they are all great, they try really hard to make this a welcoming school. He really appreciates that. He feels like he could talk to any of his teachers personally, they are all really nice to everybody. Even if there are some days when students are not in the most school mood, we still manage, he really likes everyone here. Losing this school would be pretty depressing. He does not know what he would do. He doesn't understand why we are continuing to be online. Is the board keeping kids' mental health in mind? It doesn't really feel that way. It seems dumb to continue to be online. Bringing it up so late even after we switched buildings, it wasn't the impression that we had no money, he didn't have that impression before.

Angelina Gagne, student at MC2 Manchester, shared that she agrees with Jackson. The Board doesn't have control over everything, but when the Board put new principals and they spent

	<p>money on a school dance, why did they spend that money if we didn't have it? If the school closes down, she will not be continuing with her education and she will be dropping out. She was the bad kid in school that you would stay away from, she was the kid that everyone thought was the bully because she defended herself. Coming to MC2 she found other kids that are like her. Her best friend attends the school and she wouldn't have met her. She shared why she was truant at her prior school. She is in 11th grade. She is waiting to see what will happen to her. They are not funded by rich people. She can be successful at MC2. If the school closes, the Board is sending all of the students to fail.</p> <p>Keegan Nunley, staff at MC2 Manchester, shared that he is interested to know what operational or cost changes the Board has considered.</p>	
<p>Consent Agenda</p>	<p>Board consented to components of agenda.</p> <p>Jerry moved to accept the March 15 minutes, Adam seconded, March 15 minutes approved by unanimous roll call vote.</p> <p>Jerry moved to accept the April 5 minutes, Adam seconded, March 15 minutes approved by unanimous roll call vote.</p>	
<p>Old Business: Finance Committee Proposal to consolidate campuses</p>	<p>Amanda and Adam shared costs and revenue projections analysis for the Manchester campus.</p> <p>Jerry raised the question of what enrollment increases would be required and when in order to open Manchester next year. Adam shared that enrollment would need to be at about 55 to "break even".</p> <p>Jodi shared responses to public comment and questions. Jodi shared that the Board has sought to bring on new members with fundraising experience. Jodi shared that the Board has actively been seeking fundraising. Jodi responded to the question of why the board is considering Manchester over Keene for closure: Keene has had consistent leadership; Manchester has already made adjustment to space, which is more expensive in</p>	

	<p>Manchester; Keene has had success fundraising; graduation rates are higher in Keene; Manchester presents more competitive local salaries for educations; the financial position of Manchester puts MC2 at risk for non-renewal of our charter; the school does receive grants which are managed by the QED foundation but grants cannot be spent on operational costs or salaries;</p> <p>Amanda shared that any strategic plan to keep the Manchester campus open would require the hiring of a school leader or an alternative leadership model.</p> <p>Jerry shared that he is seeking more information about the viability of a potential save the school campaign, including research about any other similar efforts in New Hampshire.</p> <p>Amanda shared that postponement of a decision would still require the establishment of a transition team and a preparation of records in the case that the campus closes.</p> <p>Jodi noted that the term ends on June 18 and a decision should be made before then. Jodi shared that the DOE prefers but does not require 90 days notice for the closure of a campus.</p> <p>Adam noted that fundraising efforts need to be tracked and vetted by the board in partnership with the school.</p> <p>Adam recommended that the Board take time to vote on whether we should put a strategic planning committee in place.</p> <p>Jodi shared the requirements of a transition team.</p> <p>Amanda moved to establish a transition team to identify the needs of Manchester staff and students in the event of a closure, and be in place to continue that work if needed. Adam seconded. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.</p> <p>Adam moved to establish a strategic planning committee with members to be determined.</p>	<p>Jodi will connect members of the team by email when she has identified everyone</p> <p>The Board agreed to meet Monday 4/26 6-7</p>
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New Business: School Reopening	<p>Jodi shared that it is confirmed that not all staff have been fully vaccinated. Jodi shared that it would be feasible to open in a week.</p> <p>Adam asked when Manchester goes back into session 5 days per week, to avoid additional transportation cost. Amanda determined that Manchester has been granted a waiver to open on May 3rd.</p> <p>Amanda moved to open the Manchester campus to all interested students 5 days per week on May 3rd. Jerry seconded. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.</p>	
Old Business: Update on Keene Staff Investigation	<p>Jodi provided information about the investigation into a possible sexual harassment claim made against a staff member by staff. MC2 engaged with legal counsel to complete the investigation. The conclusion was that the complaint did not constitute sexual harassment, and the organization did not engage in discriminatory hiring practices.</p>	
Financial Report	<p>Adam moved to not renew the CEO contract which expire April 26th 2021, and authorize the treasurer to use discretion and work with the Board chair and CEO to set a transition timeline. Amanda seconded. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.</p>	
Grants Assurances	<p>Adam moved to accept the ESSER II Grant Assurances and federal grant program general assurances. Jerry seconded. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.</p>	
Authorization to spend grant funds	<p>Adam moved to authorize Chris O'Reilly to spend CSI and ESSER grant funds for his campus.</p>	

