

THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

29 February 2020

Jackson, MS

Present: Ryder Taff, Cynthia Henderson, Julie Tipton, Germain McConnell, Sheila Westbrook, Chad Edmonson, Deyo Johnson

Present on Phone/Webex: Dillon Allen, Jason Christianson, Tom Richardson, Mattie Clay, Nate Clay, Crystal Lauderdale, Michael Goggans, Karen Saucier Lundy

Guests: Kassie Brooks

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by President Cynthia Henderson at 9:15. We were given one minute to review the minutes. Germain McConnell motioned that we prove the minutes, they were accepted unanimously.

SCHOOL REPORT

Dr McConnell presented the school report. The school has hired back Mr. Funderberk as a permanent physics teacher. Dr. Odom is retiring and they are confident that they will find a good replacement soon. They are doing remote interviews soon. Two new assistant hall directors has put them at full staff for residence halls.

Architecture South has won a bid draft renovation plans for residence halls. They impressed the staff with their groundwork. The renovation should allow for more student support space, as well as conference space.

Full time engineering teacher has been hired. Dr. Grimes is doing a good job integrating the engineering across curriculum. Looking for connections to Stennis, Huntington-Ingalls, etc for advisory board. Dr. McConnell noted that MSMS students have started participating in science fairs across the state - in the regions of their home schools. Some board members volunteered to connect MSMS to Universities for summer research opportunities.

The staff are working on getting withdrawals down. They think better communication and orientation looks like it is helping with retention.

The school does have Coronavirus procedures in place, but is largely leaning on the University for most of the actual controls. Chad Edmonson raised the alarm that the School needs to assume that there will be cases. He recommended that everyone in the meeting purchase \$50 of shelf stable goods and ramping up hygiene training at school.

MSMS now has a Track and Field team. They are doing very well. Chad cautioned

against allowing the students to form a Basketball team, as he was there when they lost, terribly to some other schools. It was noted that Soccer remains fairly competitive.

MSMS is still falling short on application goals. They are aiming for 230, but got 177 this cycle and invited 162 to campus for interviews. They are doing a good job with increasing advocates and outreach. They are still targeting counties that have 0 students and using summer camps as initial outreach. It was noted that MSMS is getting many more female applicants, and possibly some of it was due to boys not wanting to move away from sports teams they play on - regardless the opportunity.

A motion was made by Chad to accept the school report and seconded by Deyo. This was accepted unanimously.

## FOUNDATION REPORTS

Cynthia Henderson presented information on donations. We raised just a few dollars just below \$250,000. Alumni weekend being later this year means fewer dollars for the first few months.

Chad Edmonson presented the investment report. 2019 was a very good year, but we have some short-term issues ahead. Germain McConnell motioned to approve the financial report and was seconded by Deyo.

Julie Tipton presented the PLUS report. Overall, things are good. Exam Snacks were a success, focused around themes. They are rebooting Parents and Alumni Lending Support PALS, helps keep some people involved as their children graduate.

The Hiring Committee has met and developed a draft job notice for a Development Director for the foundation. Looking to get that posted in the next few weeks. Discussion about salary is still fluid.

Chad motioned that we accept the committee reports and Deyo seconded the motion. This was approved unanimously.

The 2019 matching campaign was quite successful.

Discussed what was compelling for fundraising. Potential to do an add a seat campaign. Campaigns along with Alumni weekend have potential. Generally supportive of the matching program for Giving Tuesday.

Chad made a motion to approve the Foundation Activity report which was seconded by Germain. It was accepted unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

Dr McConnell discussed getting a separate account for Needs Wants and Wishes.

Since MSMS doesn't have their own employer ID, they have to get approved by MUW. They did not approve it. This may become an issue in the future if the Foundation needs to be audited (at \$1M revenue). Motion to approve the old business was made by Chad Edmonson. This was accepted unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Chad to approve renewing the terms for three lapsed board members: Crystal Lauderdale, Dillon Allen, Michael Goggans. This was accepted unanimously.

A motion was made by Chad to approve requests for up to \$10,000 for housing for students in the Ole Miss research ARISE program, \$1,878 for website, and other requests in notes from General Fund. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussed where to advertise and how to budget for advertising for Development Director position. Chronicles of Higher Education and Chronicle of Philanthropy were mentioned as places to find the caliber of candidate that we want. Deyo Johnson motioned that we have a budget of up to \$5,000 for advertising.

## NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting (to follow the open board meeting in April) was set for July 25th in Jackson. This was accepted unanimously.

Dillon Allen motioned that we adjourn which was seconded by Chad. This was accepted unanimously.