

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

9 February 2019

Jackson, MS

Present: Eric Atchison, Germain McConnell, Ryder Taff, Cynthia Henderson, Sheila Westbrook, Chad Edmonson, Mattie Clay, Nate Clay

Present on Phone/Webex: Owen McGuire, Kim Padeletti, Jason Christianson, John Davis, Karen Lundy, Deyo Johnson

Guests: Kassie Brooks

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Cynthia Henderson called the meeting to order and welcomed all members. A quorum being present, the meeting began. Eric Atchison moved that we approve the minutes. They were approved unanimously.

SCHOOL REPORT

Dr McConnell presented the school report. He highlighted key outreach activities, including the past week's Middle School Science Bowl and the upcoming STEM carnival in Hattiesburg. He noted that the STEM carnival has expanded its remit from Science to include Mathematics. He emphasized raising the visibility of alumni contributing and giving back to the school, not just in dollars given, but effort put forth.

Staffing issues: The school finds it difficult to find someone who can teach Biology and Chemistry at the level that is required. They are currently looking for a hall director in Goen. Previously looked for a Bachelor's degree to signify their maturity, looking to cast a wider net as long as the maturity and ability is there. They are interviewing for the Engineering position and looking to make a decision over the next few weeks.

Looking ahead on the budget - Dr McConnell noted that he would be requesting \$100,000 from the Foundation for FY 2020.

Noted that there are still extensive facilities plans. There is money for pre-planning of residence hall renovations. Eric Atchison noted that the DFA has an arduous process for building approval. Plant fund has funded some improvements including blinds and tinted screens on the south side of Hooper.

Sheila Westbrook presented information on admissions. 266 applications started, 198 applications in, two more may be completed. Noted a general level of excitement about applications. Dr McConnell noted that students who could benefit and contribute to MSMS were being turned away, due to capacity. Legislative request of \$500,000 for class expansion is primarily for staff to handle them.

There was a discrepancy between dollars raised for summer camp and dollars reported. That will be looked into.

Noted that there was a lot of positive energy around Capitol day - even though it was interrupted by the weather warning. Students sent hand written invitations to their representatives, emailed with them, etc.

Sheila Westbrook noted that they were working on a commercial and gathering B-roll footage to use for various marketing projects. Theme "I am MSMS" showing different faces and voices, all stakeholders. An MBA group from MSU is doing a marketing study of MSMS.

Chad Edmonson motioned to accept the school report. The school report was accepted unanimously.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Cynthia Henderson presented the financial report. She started with ripping the band-aid off: 2018 was not good for fundraising. Possibly down because Alumni Weekend was not that great. Our fundraising efforts in the beginning of the year was less coordinated than in 2017.

On our P&L statement, we are at a deficit for the first time in a while.

Chad Edmonson discussed the investment account.

Eric Atchison moved that we accept the financial report and John seconded. The financial report was accepted unanimously.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kim Padeletti gave a report on MSMSAA. A question from her was where MSMSAA should focus: excellence campaign or alumni engagement through meetups. She is not pursuing reelection as President of MSMSAA. We discussed succession planning and emphasized the importance of running an election for the role of President. Furthermore, we discussed the possibility of having a President-Elect position. MSMSAA has only more recently had formal committee structure.

Cynthia Henderson noted that the executive committee met a few times to approve some checks and also to approve changes of LaborVoices as they do more fundraising and pivoting.

Ryder Taff motioned that we approve the committee reports and Chad seconded. The committee reports were accepted unanimously.

## FOUNDATION REPORTS

The Current has been sent out.

Early registrations for Alumni Weekend are strong! Targeting a 150 person event this year. 3/8/2019 is end of early registrations.

We discussed fundraising targets, decided to keep it at \$350,000. Alumni reunion is spring campaign. Possibly have a separate participation campaign. Discussion turned to how to raise participation rates for the 0-10 year out classes. Several ideas for campaigns were discussed.

We discussed having a database of MSMS photos. Consensus leaned towards it being a good idea, but we need a lot of organization tools.

Dr McConnell moved that we accept the Foundation Report and Chad seconded. The Foundation Report was accepted unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

Dr McConnell discussed the Needs Wants and Wishes account. It is currently under the foundation and it may be difficult dealing with MDE to move it to the school. Best practice would be to move it directly to the authority of the school. Needs Wants Wishes discussion is tabled.

Cynthia Henderson noted that we have passed the \$1,000,000 level of assets. As the foundation grows, we will have different levels of responsibility, for instance, at \$5,000,000 in assets, we will be required to have an audit. The board seems very supportive of getting to that point. Eric Atchison motioned that we accept the Tax Review and Chad seconded. The Tax Review was accepted unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

Class IV rolled off of the board at the end of 2018 (roughly). We are not sure if Jack Carter and Thomas Richardson want to stay on the board, but Deyo Johnson and Eric Atchison are both interested. Chad Edmonson motions that we extend Eric and Deyo's board memberships for another 4-year term and was seconded by Germain. The motion was accepted by all members eligible to vote. Chad Edmonson made a motion that the board affirm all motions, seconds and votes that have been made today by Eric Atchison and Deyo Johnson. This was accepted unanimously.

MSMS has requested a commitment of \$100,000. Parsing this out, we raised about \$140,000, we will spend about \$75,000 to run the foundation, and \$35,000 of projects supported annually. This leaves about \$30,000 left that we provide to MSMS. Discussion last year, in a good fundraising year, was that we should send as much as we could to the school, and not add to the foundation's accounts. Discussion leaned

towards committing up to \$30,000 right now.

Discussing Alumni Weekend spending, currently budgeted at \$7,575. Chad Edmonson motioned that we fund Alumni Weekend up to \$10,000. This motion passed unanimously.

Eric Atchison made a motion to accept the operational budget request. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Open Meeting date is set for March 30th - during Alumni Weekend.

Two reimbursement requests were made. Cynthia Henderson made a motion that we accept these requests. Motion was accepted unanimously.

#### NEXT FOUNDATION MEETING

Cynthia Henderson motioned that July 20th be the next board meeting date, location set in Jackson. This was accepted unanimously.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Dr McConnell motioned that we adjourn. This was accepted unanimously.