

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

20 July 2019

Jackson, MS

Present: Ryder Taff, Cynthia Henderson, Julie Tipton (PLUS), Germain McConnell, Sheila Westbrook, Chad Edmonson, Jennifer Sloan-Ziegler

Present on Phone/Webex: Mattie Clay, Nate Clay, Andrea Collins, Michael Goggans, Owen McGuire, Crystal Lauderdale, and Deyo Johnson

Guests: Cassie Brooks

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Cynthia Henderson called the meeting to order and welcomed all members. A quorum being present, and 50% of the board being present. the meeting began. Chad Edmonson moved that we approve the minutes. They were approved unanimously.

SCHOOL REPORT

Dr McConnell presented the school report. Noted that the school will be partnering with MDA for energy awareness day again. Super Night schedule is out. Physics teacher spot is still open, some visa issues with PhD students at MSU. Jennifer Sloan-Ziegler noted that there is some possibility for PhD candidates self-certifying for a temporary green card. Engineering teacher will be covering one physics class. Dr McConnell went over a few other open positions.

Budget: Noted that the general fund allocation was an increase of about \$271,000. Provided mandatory raises. Other priorities were staffing the engineering program (issues noted above) and increase outreach. Hiring a new math teacher has allowed a current math teacher to work out outreach, piloting doing professional development in local schools. Currently doing this for free - but looking at a funded mechanism later.

Looking to expand distance learning, which is currently all paid for by the Choctaw Schools. As they expand the level of classes available, they need to consider the background of the student, and emphasize working with a cohort who has gone through MSMS distance education. Discussion went to how they were charging, and how to make money off of it. Dr McConnell emphasized the importance of having an MSMS quality teacher doing the work. Definitely looking to expand the program, both to more students and to higher levels of mathematics.

Goal is still to fill 300 beds. Money from the state must be used or it goes back. Used to be able to funnel it through the plant fund, so they could keep it if they didn't use it. Potentially can redirect some of Room and Board fee to plant fund. That would replenish money expended on furniture etc that came from plant fund.

Cynthia Henderson proposed that the room and board fee be raised. She admitted that this would not be a popular position. She noted that the school income needed to be diversified away from state support. It was noted that several legislators and Delbert Hosemann spoke to this when we met with them. It was noted that the Room and Board fees are the most flexible discretionary funds that the school has. Regarding other Math and Science schools - Maine charges as much as \$10,000, the only free one may be Arkansas, but we are not sure. Other schools have better funding in general. The possibility of charging full rate for out of state students was floated again. Interest in a sliding scale for the Room and Board fee. There was very little strong opposition to this idea. A lot of discussion centered around the mechanics of surveying current parents about how they would view such a change.

Discussing summer bridge and outreach programs. In particular discussing outreach to African American students. Noted that there was a drop in African American attendance from about 25% to 17%.

Starting to interview for PR position. School will provide a list of open positions and volunteer positions needed so that Foundation can send to its mailing list.

Ryder motioned that we accept the school report. It was accepted unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Cynthia Henderson presented the foundation report. Starting with a Neon report - NB the included Neon report uses 2017 as "last year" as that was our top year.

Chad presented information on the investment account. 16% so far this year. Cynthia motioned that we accept the financial report. It was accepted unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Cynthia spoke about scholarships. Narrative was included with Room and Board application. This offered more insight to the applicant situation. She noted that other scholarships also had excellent applications.

Julie Tipton presents the PLUS report. She noted that they were keeping the calendar largely the same, but have added an amazon wish list for paper products that they go through with exam snack and other events. It was noted that "exam snacks" may not be an appropriate term, as it is more "exam meals."

Jennifer motioned that we accept the committee reports. They were accepted unanimously.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Alumni weekend was a resounding success, 175 attendees, revenue of \$12,000. This was maximum capacity for the venues used, so we are looking for new venues. 2020 will be the first year with a 30 year reunion. Looking for it to be bigger.

Amazon Smile brought in over \$800 so far this year.

In unrelated business, Chad noted that he is working with Emily Liner to survey candidates for office.

Cynthia went over goals for collecting email addresses for the database. Chad discussed video promotion work and yard signs.

As a non-profit, we qualify for a free account on Flickr. Cynthia has started uploading Alumni weekend photos there.

As we are disillusioned with Giving Tuesday, we discussed having the board match donations on that day. Importance of putting name and a face to it. Challenges to give. Jennifer, Chad, Cynthia, Ryder, Germain, and Michael committed to supporting this.

Ryder Taff motioned that we accept the Foundation Activity report. The report was accepted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr McConnell noted that there wasn't much to discuss here.

Bookkeeping. We have engaged a bookkeeper, but they are working on getting on top of everything. After that, they will do a 2018 tax review.

Chad Edmonson motioned that we accept the old business. Old business was accepted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of term limits was tabled.

MSMS Foundation Fundraiser. The fundraising efforts of the foundation are important to the school, but as an all volunteer board, we have trouble growing the amount we raise. Cynthia proposed forming a committee to look for an executive director. Michael Goggins volunteered to participate. Crystal Lauderdale, Ryder Taff and Cynthia Henderson all agreed to be on the committee.

Foundation budget requests were made. No questions or discussion. Chad Edmonson motioned that we accept the requests. They were accepted unanimously.

NEXT FOUNDATION MEETING

It was noted that November 16th was the MSU v Alabama game weekend. We can only do the morning - 9am for that date. We will also get some video done on that date. Our next foundation meeting was tentatively set for November 16th in Columbus.

ADJOURNMENT

Cynthia motioned that we adjourn. This was accepted unanimously.