

Board of Directors Meeting  
Marine Village School  
Thursday, March 20, 2025  
6:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Sarah Stivland (Chair) in person  
Kien Trung Nguyen (Vice Chair) via Zoom  
Mike Lammi (Treasurer) in person  
Kelly Jeanetta (Secretary) in person  
Jenn Cress (Board Member) in person  
Daryl Timmer (Board Member) in person  
Kate McDearmon (Board Member) via Zoom  
Michelle Johnson (Board Member) in person

**Community Members Present:**

Cari McGlynn (Interim Principal) in person  
Dan Willenbring (Multi-Generational Committee) in person  
Steve Dibb in person

**Authorizer Present:**

David Peterson (MOChA) via Zoom

**I. Meeting Recorded**

**II. Meeting called to order**

**III. Meeting Agenda**

- Daryl moved to approve the agenda. Jenn seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

**IV. February 20, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

- Mike moved to approve the minutes. Jenn seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**V. Executive Director Report (Steve Dibb)**

The World's Best Work Force/Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness

- The World's Best Work Force was established by legislative action in 2013. It requires schools to create long-term strategic goals that address the WBWF four goals: 1) to insure children are ready to start school; 2) that they will graduate from high school; 3) that they will be college-ready; and 4) to close economic and racial gaps. The name changed in 2024 to Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness. CACR focuses on school readiness, preparing students for college and careers, closing achievement gaps, and promoting lifelong learning. Steve explained that the civil readiness piece of

the strategic plan is the most complicated piece. Its focus is on attendance, the meaning of community, and career exploration.

- The CACR needs to be finalized. Teachers will review the draft and make sure it is workable. Once it is finalized, it will be posted on the website.
- The CACR is a three-year, living plan. In other words, it can evolve year to year.
- There will be a public meeting in the fall which will allow MVS to share the strategic goals and receive community input.

#### Sixth Grade Expansion

- We are in year 3 of a 5-year plan of oversight by MOChA (Minnesota Office of Charter Authorizing). We need to insure that we have standardized processes and demonstrated success economically and academically in order to “pass” review. Dr. Peterson has recommended that we keep doing what we have been doing, but do it better. In order to have a 6<sup>th</sup> grade, we need several years of strategic planning and must be on solid ground economically, which currently we are not.
- Sarah made a motion that MVS begin the planning process for adding 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade (pending re-authorization for another five years). Mike seconded the motion.
- Michelle amended the motion to make it a two-part question, the second part being a motion that MVS add a pilot project sixth grade for the 2025-26 school year.
- Sarah amended the motion as follows:
  - Planning will begin for a 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade model, to be implemented once MVS is approved for another five years. Mike seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  - The Board will not be expanding into 6<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2025-26 school year. Mike seconded the motion.
    - There were five “ayes” (Kien, Daryl, Jenn, Sarah, Mike). There were three “nays” (Kate, Kelly, Michelle). The motion passed. There will not be a 6<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2025-26 school year.
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#### **VI.**

##### **Principal Report (Cari)**

- The Read-a-Thon raised \$9,400.00. A maple syrup celebration was to take place the next day. MVS had to add June 2 and 3 back to the calendar due to snow days. MCA testing begins in April. Students are busy preparing for Lion King. Cari gave a shout out to Jaime Souza on her good work on the school forest designation. Jaime is planning an Arbor Day celebration for April 25.

## **VII. Marine Multi-Generational Site Committee Report (Dan Willenbring)**

### School Forest

- Dan Willenbring presented a Resolution to approve the establishment and maintenance of the Marine Village School Forest and outdoor classroom comprising 1.6 acres of property in and around the MVS.
  - Sarah moved to approve the Resolution. Daryl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  - City Council member John Goodfellow is the point person for the School Forest.

### Multi-Generation

- Dan said that there needs to be assessment and public awareness and discussion/input regarding needs pertaining to the building and property. For example, there needs to be planning around potential expansion if there is growth in the student population, what if the school should fail, what does the Folk School need, and are there other community needs that could be fulfilled by the property.
- Toward that end, Dan reported that the MGC will hold two public sessions and the Town Hall, probably in August and one during the day and the other during an evening.

### Miscellaneous

- Dan reported that soon 5<sup>th</sup> Street spring road construction will start.
- Dan suggested that for the City's convenience, once the Board's meeting minutes are approved, a copy be sent directly to the City.

## **VIII. Finance Report (Mike)**

- Mike reported that there needs to be significant budget cuts over the next two years as currently we are just servicing our debt. While we have collected funds owed and have had anonymous donations (as previously reported), we are in a precarious financial position. Increased enrollment will get us out of the woods, but if our economic situation does not improve, we risk reauthorization and school closure.
- We will have to slash the budget by \$100,000.00. At the next Board meeting we will review a budget proposal.

## **IX. Governance Committee Report (Kien)**

- At the last meeting Election Procedures were shared with the Board. The Board election will be held May 13, 2025. We will post candidate profiles by April 11. We will use Simply Voting for the election. The cost is \$200.00. Carla Hines will oversee the Simply Voting process. Sarah and Carla will verify the voting results.
  - Jenn made a motion to approve the Election Procedures. Daryl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Sarah made a motion to use Simply Voting on May 13, 2025 and for Sarah to help Carla provide oversight of the election. Jenn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. Facilities Report (Kate)**

- Kate connected with a local resident who might be able to do snow removal next year. We need a larger dumpster and hope to share that cost with the Folk School. Buses will be maintained over spring break. We are receiving meal reimbursement/credit from the USDA Food Distribution Program. The Wellness Committee will meet after spring break.

**XI. Community Outreach Report (Jenn)\**

- There was no meeting last month but one in February. The Committee has a lot of good ideas. They are discussing the potential for Adopt a Highway, a Night Out fundraiser, another Rustic Roots gathering, a Silent Auction, sustaining memberships, and others. Jenn encouraged people to take photos of school events when possible to use for marketing.

**XII. Executive Director Search**

- Sarah made a motion that the Chair form a committee to select a part-time Executive Director and a full-time principal. Daryl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. Authorizer Comments (Dr. David Peterson)**

- Dr. Peterson visited Marine Village School and met with Cari and Steve. He expressed that the Board and staff are working diligently to stay afloat. He said we made the best decision we could have made (regarding 6<sup>th</sup> grade) given our current circumstances.
- Dr. Peterson will set a date for his official MOChA site visit for some time at the end of May. He invited up to two other Board members to attend the site visit.

**XIV. Next Meetings**

April 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

May 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

**XV. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.