

MUSKEGON HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SYSTEM

Regular Board of Directors Meeting
February 24, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Muskegon Heights Public School Academy
2441 Sanford Street, Muskegon Heights, MI 49444

I. Call To Order

The Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System Board of Directors, conducted at the Muskegon Heights Academy, 2441 Sanford Street, Muskegon Heights, MI 49444, was called to order.

II. Roll Call

President Warren call the roll of the Board of Directors @ 6:02 pm

Board of Directors

Joseph Warren, President - Present
Katie Kapteyn, Vice President - Present
Chauncey Bryant, Treasurer - Present
Kesha Sanders, Secretary - Present
Manasseh Bankhead, Trustee- Present

Administrative Staff

Mr. Reedell Holmes, Superintendent - Present
Dr. Belinda Hicks, Square 1 Strategy Group - Present

III. Approval of February 24 , 2025, Agenda

President Warren motioned to approve the February 24, 2025 Meeting Agenda. Vice President Kapteyn Seconded the motion to approve the February 24, 2025 Agenda with exception for Closed Session with Attorney and Pool Partnership/Costs. No discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of January 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes

President Warren moved to approve the January 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Secretary Sanders motioned and Treasurer Bryant seconded the motion. There was discussion, VP Kapteyn-Nay as the spelling of her last name will need to be corrected on the meeting minutes. Minutes will be approved with the name correction for VP Kapteyn.

Feb 24, 2025

V. Approval of February 5, 2025 Special Work Session Meeting Minutes

President Warren moved to approve the February 5, 2025 Work Session Meeting Minutes.

Treasurer Bryant motioned and Trustee Bankhead seconded the motion. There was Discussion, Kapteyn-Nay as the spelling of her last name will need to be corrected on the meeting minutes. Minutes will be approved with the name correction for VP Kapteyn.

VI. Financial Update

Mark Graham provided the monthly financial updates, including the bank reconciliation, YTD budget, and check report. No Discussion was had.

a. Approval of Checks for February 25, 2025 Payments

President Warren moved to Approve checks for the December 2024 payment. VP Kapteyn motioned the approval, and Trustee Bankhead seconded the motion. No Discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Roll call was taken: V.P Kapteyn-Yes, Treasurer Bryant-Yes, President Warren-Yes, Secretary Sanders-Yes, Trustee Bankhead-Yes

b. Discussion of Cash flow from Events

Vice President Kapteyn wanted a discussion on the process of cash flow handling at school events. BOD had attended a basketball game and saw that the ticket sales were being counted in the public eye after the game, and only one person was counting money. President Warren states it should always be two people counting the money in a secured room to ensure safety practices are implemented. President Warren also stated money is being taken from fans when the game is in the last 2 min of 4th quarter, collection should stop after the end of 3rd quarter of the game. BOD wants corrective actions in place by either the Management Co. or Superintendent. Dr. Hicks discussed there is a protocol in place, and she and Superintendent Holmes and the Athletic Director will have a meeting to ensure the proper practices are being followed.

VII. Closed Session (To Review the written opinion of counsel)-Omitted/Tabled

Attorney Urban would need to write a letter so there would be no OMA violations.

President Warren motioned for the approval for a Special Meeting date on Monday 3-10-2025 @ 6 pm. VP Kapteyn Seconded the motion for the approval for a Special Meeting date on 3-10-25. No Discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Roll call was taken: V.P Kapteyn-Yes, Treasurer Bryant-Yes, President Warren-Yes, Secretary Sanders-Yes, Trustee Bankhead-Yes

Feb 24, 2025

VIII. Old Business

a. Feeder Program for Athletics and Finances

President Warren wants the feeder program to be an action item as the BOD have been in past discussions on this and feels that it will greatly increase athletics in the elementary school level programs. Mark Graham stated a Strategic Planning Committee will need to be established to consist of the Finance Dept. and Curriculum Director to get this action item in progress, more discussion to follow.

b. Discussion on Reporting from Staff Attended Conferences

Vice President Kapteyn was requesting information/feedback on the SFA Conference this year and how the training went. What staff attended and did Staff bring back pertinent information to relay and share with staff that did not attend. Dr. Hicks informed and explained to the BOD, the staff that attended SFA & CLSD conferences and the process upon staff returning and sharing information with other staff at weekly Administration meetings.

IX. New Business

a. Restructuring District

President Warren was instructed by the BOE who voted last week that MHPSAS 'old Charter will expire on June 30th, 2025. A New Charter was implemented and effective July 1, 2025. After careful discussions from both Board Presidents and their Legal Counsels, **All** contracts under the old charter will expire on June 30th, 2025. New Contracts will have to be reinstated and an RFP Search will need to go into effect immediately for the upcoming school year. Square One Strategy Group can re-submit their contract at that time. President Warren stated that no employee should feel that they will lose their job or be replaced as the BOD is only seeking to fill vacant positions. Discussion was had with the CFO on the cost of building restructuring, but more discussion to follow as the BOD would like input also from community and staff. Vice President Kapteyn hopes everyone has a piece of mind about this as we keep working together with the BOE, community and staff. The BOD wants to make the best decisions moving forward to bring Muskegon Heights back to a public school and build something that is sustainable.

Treasurer Bryant motioned for RFP Search, effective immediately.

Vice President Kapteyn Seconded the motion. No further Discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Roll call was taken: V.P Kapteyn-Yes, Treasurer Bryant-Yes, President Warren-Yes, Secretary Sanders-Yes, Trustee Bankhead-Yes

b. Creation of a Finance/Academic/Curriculum Committee

Mark Graham did a presentation to the BOD on the process to create the Finance, Academic and Curriculum committee. The committee should consist of two Board Members-Kapteyn and Bryant were chosen. A member is needed from the Finance Dept. and a member from PSA Staff to make the committee. More discussions to follow.

c. Budget Amendment

Mark Graham presented to the Board of Directors the Mid-Year Budget Amendment for the BOD to review. President Warren moved to approve the Mid-Year Budget Amendment.

Vice President Kapteyn motioned to approve the Mid-Year Budget Amendment and Trustee Bankhead Seconded the Motion. No Discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Roll call was taken: V.P Kapteyn-Yes, Treasurer Bryant-Yes, President Warren-Yes, Secretary Sanders-Yes, Trustee Bankhead-Yes

d. Exit Interviews for student/Parent Leaving the District

BOD had a discussion on what we can do to keep our kids in our school and increase the headcount to our student body. School of choice is soon approaching and MHPSA will need to have a plan in place. We may need to meet with the parents to survey how we can keep our kids in the district.

Mr. Bankhead stated that having certified Teachers, safety, sincere care and concern of our students is parents number one concern for their child and what can we do to reassure our district. MHPSA is losing hundreds of students per year and in order to sustain enrollment we have to get a plan in place.

Superintendent Holmes spoke in agreement with safety practices and now we have three metal detectors in schools. The fights are very minimal now as safety is our number one priority. Superintendent Holmes stated we try to give our kids the best with Counselors and Social Workers and certified Teachers, and feel we are headed in the right direction.

Vice President Kapteyn wanted to state on a personal note also that safety must have the basics and be implemented correctly. A policy for physical and mental safety for both the student and the staff must be in place.

e. NWEA Presentation (All Schools)

The Three Principals from each school presented their Academic Progress Report for each school. Discussion was had from the Board of Directors on the students level of proficiency.

Treasurer Bryant had Discussion asking if behavior issues were disrupting their education and ability to grasp, learn etc.

Principal Conerly presented for Edgewood Elestated that performance is always the means to behavior because the teacher is teaching to the masses and not able to focus on the needs of the student that is acting out. Students are just not understanding or comprehending what is being taught to them.

Trustee Bankhead had Discussion on looking at a lot of red on these charts and hoping we can turn the red to green and what's being implemented to correct these weaknesses. Can there be any kind of educational stimuli that can help with what we currently have in place.

Principal Conerly stated that we do have several programs that we run for virtual students and for our PBIS as well. After school tutoring is also available for students to receive that extra needed help.

Principal Johnson presented to the Board MLK school growth and progress for all grade levels. No Discussion was had on reporting.

Principal Coach-Mr. Mallett presented his projections, growth and progress reports to the Board for MHA-Middle and High school students.

President Warren had Discussion and asked if the data they were reviewing was raw data.

Principal Coach-Mr. Mallett stated that all data is collected and pulled from the State.

VP Kapteyn had Discussion asking if the Principal Coach-Mr. Mallett can get the Board a copy of this powerpoint presentation as well as the fall reporting results.

VP Kapteyn asked how we are tracking students' math grade standards in the classroom on a day to day basis.

Principal Coach-Mr. Mallett Informed the Board that on the High School level we use Edgenuity State Standard Practices, Policy and Procedures to follow and track students' standard level of learning.

Dr. Hicks had Discussion to state that she feels the Academy is on the right path, finally we have a curriculum that is best suited for our high school students. Dr. Hicks visited classes last week and was pleasantly surprised with the difference seen from Oct-2024 to now with Edgenuity. The Academy is in a good place as you can see for growth and we can't fault the students for where they are. Dr. Hicks stated regardless of whatever happens she hopes that MHPSA will stay on course with these things that are working.

X.Superintendent Report

Dr. Holmes gave his Superintendent Report stating the Student Privacy & Immigration policy has been put in place. This will help navigate phone calls and/or questions asked regarding our immigrant students at MHPSA and give students peace of mind coming to school.

Senior FAFSA Night was held Feb 13, 2025 from 4-8 pm. MHA currently has 37 Seniors on roster and eleven students attended in person and several attended virtually. Parents were given essential FAFSA completion support and other information to ensure our seniors are on track for post-secondary financial aid. Graduation is Thursday, June 5th, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

New Partnership and Support Initiatives have been developed with the Davenport University-Gear-Up program. This program aims towards 6th & 7th graders early college awareness and career readiness. Read Muskegon supports and tutor our students in Literacy development to help strengthen their academic foundation.

XI. S1S Management Report

Academic Update:

Dr. Hicks presented the S1S Management Report with Academic updates as the unofficial student winter count is **513**. These numbers will be certified by MDE and an update will be given.

MDE notified the district that MHA achieved the required graduation rate to satisfy one of our four goals which must be met by Nov-2025. This was a huge accomplishment as we have been working hard to meet all our goals.

NWEA presentation to the Board was done and we are now using the data to adjust instruction and grouping of our after-school program beginning 2-25-25.

Black History Month celebration program was Feb 27, 2025 at Edgewood Elementary school.

We now have 6 weeks of instruction prior to our high stake testing for M-Step and SAT.

Operational Update:

Our Security staff now have new uniform shirts to ensure that they are more recognizable on campus.

Financial Update: Mr. Graham presented the financial update to the Board.

Human Resource Update:

MHA is in need of certified pool staff: Swim Instructors and certified lifeguards.

There are no academic vacancies.

The HR Team is gearing up to attend the upcoming teacher job fair at local colleges and prepared to offer contracts on the spot for Certified Teachers.

S1S Resignation Letter:

Dr. Hicks conferred and concluded that it is best for S1S to issue notice to dissolve our management contract with MHPSAS at the end of the school year, June 30, 2025. At this point in time we just feel that the Board has decided they don't want a full service management company as the contract outlines. When the Board steps out of their role as Authorizer and Governance, these actions can have potential to create matters of liability and derail current progress. This is the first year in ten years that the enrollment has actually increased. When Square One came to the Academy there were **488 students**, and it was a hard fight for everyone.

It is not the intention to leave abruptly. We are able to close out our contract at the end of the school year on June 30, 2025. Please let us know in writing should you need a longer period of time to find new management and we will accommodate your request. We will work closely with you to ensure a smooth transition. Respectfully; Square One Strategy Group Management.

XII. Provision Report

Vanessa Culley, Co-Owner and operator of Provision presented a hard copy of the Provision Report for contracted services their company has been providing to the Board of Directors. Provision's main purpose was to promote Governance and coaching support for the Board of Directors.

XIII. Global Psychological Report

Mr. Anthony Pendleton-CEO Global Psychological Presented a report packet to the Board for Special Education Services being provided to MHPSAS.

Mr. Pendleton wanted it on record that his team has demonstrated great accomplishments and he gives all his staff accolades on good work, loving the kids and getting the job done.

Mr. Pendleton also submitted a Special Education Budget Amendment to allocate an additional \$160,000 in funds that is needed to make the budget throughout the remainder of the fiscal year. Mr. Pendleton wanted it on record that his team has demonstrated great accomplishments and he gives all his staff accolades on the good work, loving the kids and getting things done.

Vice President Kapyeyn had Discussion requesting Mr. Pendleton for a copy of the Global Contract.

President Warren had Discussion to ask if the Board needed to make a motion today for the Special Ed Budget Amendment.

XV. Other Business

No Other Business

XVI. Board Correspondence

No Board Correspondence

XVII. Public Comments

1. **Tamieco Simmons**, a BOE member, commented to the BOD to express the strength, support, and transparency being exhibited. We are so very proud of the work and want to keep moving forward for the sake of our kids, whom we are losing every year.
2. **Armone Tyson**, MHA Art Teacher passed out a flyer to BOD to show what the students are doing in class and questions the next steps of their learning. Mr. Tyson has expressed that teaching requires funding dollars to purchase the art materials and paint needed for class activities regularly.

XVIII. Comments from the Board of Directors

Vice President Kapteyn:

Thanks for hanging out with us for the past couple of hours. We appreciate it.

President Warren:

Thank you to the community and the staff for being here today. The Board wants to make sure everyone has a clear understanding of the changes we are making for the good of the district. The Board is not trying to overstep anybody but be transparent as a Board so that everyone is treated fairly and with respect.

XIX. Next Meeting

- a. The next Special meeting for the Board of Directors is Monday, March 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm at Muskegon Heights Public School Academy, 2441 Sanford St. Muskegon Heights, MI 49444.
- b. The next Regular Board of Directors meeting is Monday, March 17, 2025, at 6 p.m. at Muskegon Heights Public School Academy, 2441 Sanford St., Muskegon Heights, MI 49444.

XX. Adjournment

President Warren adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.



Kesha Sanders, Secretary
February 24, 2025