

MUSKEGON HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SYSTEM

Special Board of Directors Meeting

May 5th, 2025, 5:00 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 by **Vice President Kapteyn** @ 5:11 pm.

II. Roll Call

Board of Directors

President- Vacant

Vice President Kapteyn-Present

Secretary Sanders-Present

Treasurer Bryant-Present

Trustee Bankhead- Present

Administrative Staff

Superintendent Holmes-Present

Dr. Hicks-Square 1 Strategy Group-Absent

III. Approval of Agenda (If items are added, include under Other Business)

Vice President Kapteyn moved for the approval of the May 5th, 2025 Agenda.

Trustee Bankhead motioned for the approval of the May 5th, 2025 Agenda.

Treasurer Bryant seconded the motion. No Discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion on School Management Company

Global Psychological Presentation

Mr. Anthony Pendleton, CEO of Global Psychological gave his presentation to the Board for the Request for proposal for MHPSA new management Company. Global has over 20 years experience specializing in full-service general and special education staffing and educational services in over 250 school districts across MI, IN, Ohio, IL, Wash DC, Texas and Missouri.

Trustee Bankhead asked Mr. Pendleton if the Superintendent's role would work under the management company. Mr. Pendleton stated that the Superintendent would work under the management group so that accountability would be transparent and objectives are being met. Mr. Pendleton stated that his first objective and the center core must be to tackle and complete the partnership agreement with MDE so that the District can go back to a Public School.

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Trustee Bankhead asked what is the difference between the current management Company and Global.

Mr. Pendleton stated capacity. The current management Co. is a startup Company and Global has been around for over 20 years. Global has an excellent reputation and credibility with the community, MAISD and The State. Pedagogy is another unique attribute we bring to the table. Those traits set Global apart from any other management group.

Vice President Kapteyn asked to piggyback off a prior question asked as a resolution drafted by the BOE to state that they will no longer have the Superintendent directly hired by the PSA Board. Therefore an application (RFP) for superintendent position would have to be chosen by both Boards.

Secretary Sanders asked what duties the Superintendent would have that's different from now with the current management Company. Mr. Pendleton stated there would be total transparency and role clarity would be determined first. An analysis can be done to find the strengths and weaknesses and not be put in a position to fail. Global affirms their staff for success.

Vice President Kapteyn asked what's his experiences in Pupil Accounting. Mr. Pendleton stated that Pupil Accounting is very important as that is where the money lies. Mr. Pendleton shared he had a conversation with the Pupil Accounting Director (Yolanda Bates) stating she didn't know what she was doing, but she rolled up her sleeves and dove in. Role clarity was never addressed and the philosophy on enrollment in which a policy on structure is very much needed. Ms. Yolanda Bates did her very best, learned without any help, support or direction and through training and her sought out mentors, she has made great strides in Pupil Accounting.

Mr. Pendleton stated the first strategy would be to go to MDE and ISD and be very transparent that we need more time as we are not going to meet the benchmark outlined in the partnership agreement and it aint happening by Nov 2025.

Public Discussion was had and a series of public questions, comments and concerns were had from staff and public. The Board stated they will compile all the questions received from the various avenues and address all questions in a timely manner.

Teachers First, Inc (MM1) Presentation

David Patterson and **Ralph Cunningham** from Teachers First aka (MM1) a non profit organization that services over 15 schools in Michigan, where the team lives and is home to them all. Teacher's First will bring a more conversational presentation and give an overview of the HR services they will offer if chosen. Teacher's First fully manages 5 schools with a hybrid model. MM1 states their proposal can be modified if need be and will need a good strong leader for HR service, Benefits, Payroll, Administration and employer of record. Business Finances and Pupil Accounting are also included in the proposal, but no curriculum services will be provided, and MM1 also provides substitute teacher staffing Co. as outlined in their RFP.

Vice President Kapteyn asked Mr. Patterson what experience he has in Pupil Accounting.

Mr. Patterson stated that Pupil Accounting was very intimidating at first. MM1 has two highly trained experts that work directly in Pupil Accounting with ISD. MM1 works with thirteen ISD districts in Michigan as they are a great wealth of knowledge, resources and information. Being transparent, asking questions and building those relationships helps to understand the process for a successful outcome. MM1 states they will have to make sure they provide very clear direction to the school leaders and staff. MM1 states they pride themselves as they are ahead of the curve by interfacing with the ISD far before student count day and any audits occur. MM1 stated they are very good at what they do with Pupil Accounting.

Trustee Bankhead asked what would be MM1 spearhead strategy approach in turning around the District. Mr. Patterson stated his team will be spending a lot of time on the front end working with the Board to speed date the relationship, and gain mutual trust and respect. Mr. Patterson states there has to be a united front with the Board of Directors and a genuine relationship must be built with staff. If there's no unity within those three, it will not work. Districts that are failing ask yourself if the Board, Staff and management company are 100% united and moving forward with the same common goal. The foundation will do well when all are united. That is what we do at MM1. We have a great staff and are good at what we do with a huge team and a large capacity which makes it an easy win.

V. Public Comment/Discussion There was a series of public questions, comments and concerns from staff, and the public. The Board stated they will compile all the questions received and address them in a timely manner.

Principal Johnson had a heartfelt discussion as to how and what is she to tell her staff and parents to encourage them to return back, when no information is being given to the day to day operations and what is to come. This is very frustrating and nerve racking being put in a position of the unknown and not knowing if the dedicated staff will stay and be loyal to something that isn't being loyal to them. It is very unfair to ask to put your livelihood on hold until June 30, 2025.

XV. Comments from the Board of Directors

Vice President Kapteyn stated that she is going to keep it real with everyone as the reality is we have so many boxes to check and we don't have money. We the (Board) will have to be very cautious of all those boxes that have to be checked and collect verifiable evidence. Mostly the boxes are connected to finances, repaying the State or something we have to pay. This is a very big decision as every cent needs to be accounted for as our debt has not been forgiven. This not only affects the school, but the city and citizens in turn will have to absorb the debt so the doors don't close. The Board stated they are still compiling all the questions received from the MHPSA website and address them in a timely manner.

XVI. Next Meeting

The next Regular Board of Directors meeting will be **May 19, 2025, at 6 pm** at Muskegon Heights Public School Academy, 2441 Sanford St. Muskegon Heights, MI 49444

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at: 8:37 pm.



Kesha Sanders-Board Secretary

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