 

PCMS Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018

**In Attendance:** Gregory Jay (Co-Chair), Douglas Quinby (Co-Chair), Fran Bartel (Co-Chair), Peggy Bussert (Director of Regulatory), Mandy Sandrock (Director of Academics and Curriculum), Kris Mamaghani (Director of Finance), Megan Cann (Secretary), Brian Sims (Treasurer), Deirdre Heffernan (Teacher Representative), Jenny Schiff (Teacher Representative), Deidre Carter (Teacher Representative), Dr. Donnie Davis (Principal)

**Absent:** Jennifer Fenmore (Financial Secretary), Allegra Johnson (Director of Facilities and Hospitality), Wanda Roane (Community Member)

**Guests:** Laura Mixon (Parent), Lauren O’Brien (Parent)

The meeting was held in the Media Center of Peachtree Charter Middle School and was called to order at 0735 by Gregory Jay.

**Public Comment:** none

**Co-Chair Report:** Douglas Quinby voiced his gratitude for the attendance and feedback at the recent meeting at Vintage Pizza. He remains open to feedback on the goals that were delineated at that meeting.

**Approval of Minutes from September 2018:**

Megan Cann asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes that had been sent out from the September meeting. With no changes made, Fran Bartel made a motion to approve the minutes, it was seconded by Mandy Sandrock and unanimously approved.

Peggy Bussert reminded the group that any communication to be posted to the Foundation website needs to go to the following email address: pcmsquestions@gmail.com.

These action items were discussed:

**Action items for PCMS Foundation Board of Directors October meeting:**

* Approval of minutes from September meeting—Megan Cann—Approved by board.
* Translation of weekly foundation newsletter to Spanish—Gregory Jay--Ongoing.
* More prominent placement of the link to the Foundation website on the PCMS website—Gregory Jay—The structure of the website does not allow this to be moved to a more prominent location.
* Bios due to Peggy Bussert—still needs a couple.
* Update CV Classic—Kris Mamaghani—presenting.
* Painting of lines in the parking lot—Allegra Johnson—To November.
* Presence of resource officer—Gregory Jay—completed.

**Financials:** Kris Mamaghani shared a grant request from Ms. Havers, a counselor seeking $490 for a suicide awareness and prevention aid. The materials provided would be presented by counselors over a class period. They are targeted for 11-13-year-olds and have been used previously with proven success. This grant was recommended by the finance committee.

A motion was presented by Peggy Bussert to approve the grant as written. It was seconded by Mandy Sandrock and received unanimous support.

Another grant request from Ms. Carter was presented seeking $2200 for Math in the Fast Lane, a resource-based resource aligned with common core curriculum. It would be available to all 23 math teachers across all grades and all levels. The resource would also be available over the summer. It is consistent with best practices, instructionally based, and student centered. Questions were raised regarding its use by teachers and the need for professional development on how to best use the resource. Concerns were raised that it is a complicated program requiring training and if it would be widely used. It was stated that the Board can provide the resource, but that the use of the product cannot be enforced. This grant received unanimous support from the finance committee.

A motion was presented by Brian Sims to approve the grant as written. It was seconded by Mandy Sandrock. This grant received 9 affirmative votes, 1 negative, and 1 abstention.

Financial documents were presented.

Gregory Jay expressed his gratitude for the significant amount of work that has gone into making the event successful. Registrations for this year are trending down as are sponsorships. There is also a baseball game at 0830 despite requests to not have a game at a competing time. The community is encouraging the use of only PCMS and Brook Run property in the future as that route would require less resources from the community. The funds generated from this event are used to enhance the academic environment of the school. The event will take place at 0800 on 10/20/18 with a dinner on Friday night at Mad Italian.

**Principal’s Report:** Dr. Davis indicated that Officer House is the new SRO. The school nurse will be leaving her position at the beginning of November.

The CSIP is focusing on social studies, math, science, English, and language arts to delineate specific expectations. A leadership team meeting will take place on 10/25.

A request has been submitted to have the automatic door fixed.

The events calendar on the school website is up to date with respect to upcoming meetings.

**Academics:** Mandy Sandrock shared that breakfast beverages would be provided in the morning and dinner will be provided for the teachers on conference night. The next meeting of the academic committee will be on 11/8 at 0730 in the conference room. Dr. Davis shared that CCRPI results should be available at the end of the month.

On behalf of the Building Foundations Committee, Laura Mixon presented a request for $2600 to be used to bring in guest speaker Rob Hackenson from Dynamic Influence to talk to students about effective communication with technology. He has presentations for social media use, substance abuse, and cyber bullying. Laura Mixon spoke with a school that used him in the past and discussed needs with the counselors. She would ideally like him to present one of each of these topics to each grade and invite the feeder schools for a parent discussion in the evening. Gregory Jay voiced the importance of this material and saw the benefit in Foundation funds directly impacting students on these timely topics. The $2600 is significantly over budget, but Kris Mamaghani was confident that funds could be moved from another area.

Peggy Bussert made a motion to fund the request as written. The motion was seconded by Fran Bartel and voted on unanimously.

**Regulatory:** Peggy Bussert still needs brief bios from a couple of board members.

Any changes to meeting dates, agendas, minutes, and information to go on the Foundation website should be sent to pcmsquestions@gmail.com.

**Old/New Business**: An email was sent to Sherry Johnson drafted by Douglas Quinby and Gregory and on behalf of the parent members of the board expressing concern over a lack of communication regarding recent misconduct allegations from several teachers at PCMS. Board members have heard from numerous parents that a statement from the school is preferred over finding out the information from the news. The ensuing rumors impact the school’s image, and an attempt needs to be made to assuage parent fears about safety concerns. Freedom Middle School just faced a similar situation and issued a letter to parents. A teacher indicated that the rumors have been difficult for the staff as well. Dr. Davis indicated that he was unable to comment.

Goals from the meeting at Vintage Pizza need to be prioritized and shared with committee heads to ensure that all are working toward a common goal. Reiterated was the need for chairs to be able to vote on a committee level and the need for positive PR about the Board’s involvement at the school. For example, a teacher shared that it would be meaningful to share when something is provided by volunteers and funds from the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 0845.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Cann

**November Action Items:**

Approval of October minutes: Megan Cann.

Translation of weekly newsletter: Gregory Jay.

Painting of lines in parking lot: Allegra Johnson.