

Muskegon Covenant Academy
125 Catherine Ave.
Muskegon, MI 49442

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: February 18, 2025
Time: 12:00 P.M.
Location: MCA - 125 Catherine Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442

A. Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM

B. Roll Call

President	Jim Fisher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Vice-President	Lauren Meldrum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Treasurer	Gil Segovia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Secretary	Tamica Fox	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Member	Donna Secor-Pennington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Member	Jason Cooper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present (Late)	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Other Attendees			
Jeff Ichesco	Tim Ostrom	Joe Kaplan	
Dr. Matt Cawood	Steven Killey	Judge Greg Pittman	
Chris McGuigan	Chris Gray		
Rajeshri Bhatia	Mia Clark	and many prominent members of the educational community	
Laura Carpenter	Ed Snyder		

C. Mission Statement was read by Jim Fisher.

Public Comment on Agenda - Many prominent members from the local educational districts, community members, former MCA

- D.** Board members, MCA Staff & former students, and parents of current MCA students spoke favorably about Mia Clark, Sam Joseph, the Mission, Covenant Academies Foundation and MCA. These comments were made regarding the "closed door session held to discuss a written legal memo from their Board Attorney."

E. Approval of Agenda - All board members voted in favor of approving the agenda.

F. Consent Agenda - Approval to accept minutes from January 31, 2025.

1 Special Board Meeting Minutes from January 31, 2025

Motion: Jason Cooper Second: Donna Pennington
Ayes: 6 Opposed: 0

G. Standard Business

1 School Report

- a.** Enrollment / Retention - Mia Clark presented a school report indicating enrollment is increasing, as well as attendance is improving each week. February count day went well and students participated. Students are earning credits and a new Academic Case Manager has been proposed to help keep students on track academically.

- b.** Academic Progress Update - Chris Gray presented a positive update on the academic progress on MCA students.

2 Financial Update: Laura Carpenter, Senior Vice President of School Financial Operations (Partner Solutions)

Laura Carpenter presented an overview of MCA's financial situation, explained the recommended third quarter budget adjustments, gave a brief explanation regarding state funding for education. Laura graciously answered many questions from board members regarding the financial documents provided by CS Partners.

3 GVSU Update: Matt Cawood

Matt Cawood informed the board of the next "board training" opportunity, their annual reception will be held in both Detroit and Grand Rapids. Charter schools week is approaching and charter school day at the Capital will be held May 6th. School reports will be discussed at the next board meeting.

4 Legal Update: Chris McGuigan - No update

H. MCA Board to move into closed session to discuss a written legal memo from their Board Attorney.

At this point in the meeting, Tamica Fox made a motion, seconded by Donna Pennington to move the board meeting into a "closed session" to discuss a written legal memo from the board attorney. All member voted in favor of this. The closed door session lasted approximately 30 minutes and the public meeting continued.

I. Correspondence - No correspondence

J. Old Business - No old business

K. New Business

- 1 Approval to recommend Jim Fisher, Donna Secor-Pennington and Gil Segovia for reappointment to the MCA Board of Directors.
Motion: Jason Cooper Second: Donna Pennington
Ayes: 6 Opposed: 0
- 2 Approval of MCA Board Resolution.
Motion: Jason Cooper Second: Donna Pennington
Ayes: 6 Opposed: 0
- 3 Approval of Proposal from and Retaining Rajeshri Gandhi Bhatia, School Smarts, LLC.
Motion: Jason Cooper Second: Donna Pennington
Ayes: 6 Opposed: 0
- 4 Approval Of the 2025-26 Application and Enrollment Resolution.
Motion: Jason Cooper Second: Donna Pennington
Ayes: 6 Opposed: 0
- 5 Approval of the Amended Emergency Operations Plan.
Motion: Jason Cooper Second: Donna Pennington
Ayes: 6 Opposed: 0
- 6 Approval to accept 2023-24 Academic Grant Award from GVSU
Motion: Lauren Meldrum Second: Tamica Fox
Ayes: 6 Opposed: 0
- 7 Approval to accept budget revisions presented by CS Partners
Motion: Lauren Meldrum Second: Donna Pennington
Ayes: 6 Opposed: 0

L. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

First public comment from the CAF Board President - He expressed a desire to terminate the management agreement as quickly as legally and contractually possible. He also wish Jim Fisher luck saying, hope you don't fail a third time.

Second public comment speaker expressed sadness regarding the board's vote to terminate the management agreement. He said that CAF was not provided a copy of the "report" by smart schools, LLC but hoped a copy would be sent to their representative.

M. Reminder of Next Board Meeting - April 15, 2025 at 12:00 P.M.

N. Adjournment

Motion: Lauren Meldrum Second: Tamica Fox
Ayes: 6 Opposed: 0

Minutes Certification

Proposed minutes submitted:

Approved by the Muskegon Covenant Academy Board of Directors.

Date:

4/15/25

Board Secretary

A copy of the meeting minutes is available for public inspection at MCA - 125 Catherine Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442, within 8 business days for "proposed minutes and within 5 business days of approval for approved minutes. The Academy shall comply with subtitle A of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336, 62 USC 5 12101 et seq or any successor law. Should you require specific accommodation(s) please contact Steven Killey at (989) 596-1100 prior to the meeting.