



Mill Falls Charter School creates life-long learners by providing an intellectually rich and challenging experience delivered through the Montessori tradition. In a safe and peaceful setting, dedicated educators foster students' individuality, creativity and critical-thinking skills to fully prepare them for future scholastic, civic and personal success.

MFCS Board Meeting Minutes, August 25, 2021

- 1. Call to Order, Roll Call & Welcome Public:** Talbot (acting in her capacity as Vice Chair ran the meeting in Connor's absence) called the meeting to order at 5:50pm. Under Gov Exec #12, and following the school policy of limited building access to staff, students, Special Education service providers and emergency personnel, the Board met remotely. For meeting access, public was instructed to contact office@millfalls.org. *Note:* There were no members of the public who requested access before or during the meeting.

Roll Call:

Present: Butterfield, Trombley, Bee, Bashir, Marr, Corriveau, Wrubleski, Levin, Talbot, DePasse.

Absent: Johnson, Connors.

- 2. Public Comment:** No public present.

3. Meeting Business

a. Approval of Minutes from May 2021 meetings

Motion: Butterfield motioned to approve, with change, noting that the closed portion of the meeting should be called non-public, as per section RSA 91A:3; Trombley seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous.

4. Updates on Misc. COVID-related Items and School Opening (Levin & Wrubleski)

- Levin noted that the summer planning work is completed which includes the Mill Falls Safe School Opening Plan (all docs shared with Board previously). In June, after extensive meetings with the Manchester Health Department, we planned for a near-normal opening. But this summer, we have watched COVID caseload and hospitalizations increase to the highest rating level of community spread in Manchester – forcing a change to our plans. The biggest change will be that masks will be required by all inside the building; optional outside. Our ESSER Fund Spending Plan was submitted by the August 23rd deadline. It is available on our website and has been shared with the Board. Levin closed reminding the board that we are still short staffed – we need paraprofessionals, and an Upper Elementary Interventionist. She asked that they please spread the word. All information about requirements can be found on the website - Millfalls.org.
- Wrubelski noted that we developed our areas of focus for the year with a deliberate goal of supporting both staff and students. The plan was developed after extensive end-of-year meetings, both individual meetings she had with staff and level reflection meetings as well as an all-staff meeting lead by our Montessori Consultant, Elizabeth Slade. Wrubleski met regularly with Slade over the summer and with Levin to complete the planning. She noted that we had an unhappy and stressed-out staff at the end of the year, and she and Levin have worked hard to create plans that address staff concerns.

For the first time, she has created a year-long Professional Development Calendar that features many engaging sessions – Montessori Math Instruction, Social and Emotional programming, Montessori Observation Training, Data Analysis for our Child Study Work, among others.

Further, our NH SAS and Internal Benchmark Assessments clearly showed a school-wide learning loss in math. Wrubleski explained that general exposure to curricular materials and direct instruction was less due to remote (less time to teach, and little time with hands-on materials). She was not surprised to see learning loss, but noted that while math showed significant needs, our reading scores remained at usual levels (similar to previous years). We will be using much of our ESSER funding to support our year of 'Math Boost' and well as student and staff social and emotional health and well-being. Wrubleski repeated the need for Paraprofessionals, and shared that she has reached out to all sending districts to alert them of the hiring shortage; it is the sending school districts which are ultimately charged with making sure the Special Education needs of our students are met.

- **Manchester Busing Update:** The District/Manchester Transit Authority has changed the way they are busing our students. They have created what they are calling 'neighborhood bus stops' rather than utilizing the 4 city parking lot hubs they employed last year. Buses will be shared with Mt. Zion and Mt. St Mary. We have been told to expect 3-7 buses.
- Bee asked: Any talk about going remote again? Levin replied that expectations have changed in terms of what is required of the school. The Governor's state of emergency is no longer in place. So they do not want children learning at home. In fact, they are limited the ability of schools to use quarantine due to confirmed exposure in the classroom. We will only be able to access this tool if we have an outbreak or a cluster, and in consultation with the Governor's office, via the Education Commissioner. As mapped out in our Plan, given certain circumstances a student may be self-quarantining due to exposure (if their family chooses), or is home due to a positive test results but is feeling well (asymptomatic) they will not have Live lessons, but will have access to our online programs, and a staff member hired to be available to students at home for a few hours a day.

5. 2021/22 Board Planning

- **Annual Meeting Planning** (officer slate and committee assignments): The Board discussed that the Annual Meeting may be in September or could be in October. Talbot will speak with Connors about the planning and development of the officer slate.
- **Committee Work Overview:** Talbot asked members to think carefully about which committees they'd like to serve on and asked that they commit to committee engagement in a more meaningful and consistent way than was able to happen last year.
- **10th Year Anniversary:** Levin noted that this is our 10th Anniversary Year and we will need an ad-hoc committee to help design activities and celebrations of this important accomplishment.
- **Charter Renewal:** Levin shared that this year will also include our Charter Renewal Process which is led by the DOE and will include a number of steps – paperwork as well as stakeholder engagement.
- **Meeting Format:** Talbot noted that we are currently meeting via Zoom as a Board, given the school's policy on building access at this time. Talbot suggested that the smaller committee meetings might move to outdoors or other public venues when possible.

6. Next Meeting: **Wednesday, September 15, 2021 @ 5:45pm**

7. Adjournment:

Motion: DePasse motioned to adjourn at 6:48pm; Trombley seconded

Vote to Adjourn: Unanimous.