



MFCS Governance Committee Meeting Minutes February 10, 2022 @ 7pm

1: Welcome & Attendance

Connors welcomed the meeting attendees at 7:10pm.

Present: Levin; Connors; Dalton. Absent: Butterfield, DePasse

Following the school policy of limited building access to staff, students, Special Education service providers and emergency personnel, the Committee met remotely. For meeting access, public was instructed to contact jill.connors@millfalls.org. Note: There were no members of the public who requested access before or during the meeting.

2: Overview of Governance Committee Work

Connors discussed the potential power of committee work. Reminded the team that we have only staffed up 3 committees for the remainder of this year. The group discussed the following:

What is the role of the Gov Committee?

- Annual Cycle includes annual meeting prep (including committee assignment and annual priority work);
- Organizing board educational component(s);
- Knitting together the needs of the people on the board as a group with the school; mission work (including gift for life changing events or end of service);
- Supporting ambassador work in support of the school;
- Supporting engagement and Accountability of trustees;
- Supports Trustee recruitment and the nomination process;
- Policy (and review of policy) that impact Trustees.

The Committee will aim to have a standing meeting (on a set day) - a monthly catch up to stay on top of the cyclical/annual expectations.

3: Professional Development Work:

Levin shared the information from BoardOnTrack, and the group discussed the tools this organization would provide for a fee of \$7000. They identified that coaching is something we most seem to need to keep us engaged throughout the year. Connors noted that the lack of committee engagement seen in the recent past whether due to new members, or the Board being out of practice is what we need to address. Coaching, the group agreed, is needed to coach us out of the current phase of stagnation - routine, flatlined - that we are in (a phase that developed before and as a result of COVID).

Dalton suggested that the BoardOnTrack organization may not really be what we need. Instead, she felt we should find an individual coach (someone who can help escort us from the place we are in, to a place of greater strength). Levin and Connors agreed. Levin will reach out to the communication consultant the school has been working with. She comes from the education world and if she is not the right match, she will likely have others to direct us to. If needed,

Dalton will also consult other contacts.

Connors clarified that we will wait to schedule any professional development sessions until we identify a potential coach (still aiming for an April date). In the meantime, the current expectation is that Committees will meet monthly and report out monthly at Board meetings.

4: Nominee Development Review

Levin shared that she likes to have conversations going with potential trustees, inviting them to events or tours – unfortunately, this has been impossible during COVID. The group discussed the idea of bringing potential board members into committee work. Dalton thinks that we should look at educational professionals who would bring their passion for education - including having graduating education students working with committees. Also, we should look toward young leaders in education and in our community. The group agreed that maybe the coach can help us identify how to bring people into our committee work, and what would they do. The group also discussed integrating members of the Mill Falls Community into committee work and/or Board work.

5: Review of Action Items

Levin to reach out to Gerri King; DD also has some ideas.

6: Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 8th at 6pm

7: Adjournment: Dalton moved to adjourn at 8:08pm; Levin seconded. Vote: Unanimous.