



## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

April 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

739 Gold Hill Place, Woodland Park, CO

*Vision: Students prepared for success in a free society, promoting civic responsibility and contributing their talents in a flourishing republic by pursuing beauty, truth, and good.*

*Mission: Merit Academy will cultivate the minds and nurture the hearts of K-12 youth in the Ute Pass/Woodland Park region with instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue, employing honored foundations of classical education and Core Knowledge®.*

### **I: Preliminaries**

A: Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm

B: Members present were Mary Sekowski, Nicole Waggoner, and Jason Ledlie  
Member John Dill was absent.

- Other present was Gwynne Pekron, Director of Development and Dean Rosie Hendrickson

C: Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance

D: Public Comment:

- Jennifer Martin gave public comment at 6:06pm related to the possible donation of a service dog to Merit Academy, and what details that program might involve.

- Kathi Rice gave public comment at 6:10pm regarding a program City Market has that involves cards scanned at check-out that see 10% of the check-out total donated to the charity (i.e., a school) tied to the card. Ms. Rice encouraged the school to look into the program.

### **II: Approval of Agenda**

A: A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded, and the board members present voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

### **III: Consent Calendar**

A: Approval of Meeting Minutes from the March 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting – a motion was made to table the approval of the March 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting Minutes until the next regular meeting of the board. The motion received a second, and the board members present voted unanimously to table the approval of the March 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting Minutes.

B: New Hires, Transfers, Resignations – the Director of Development presented on offering a position to a newly hired nurse. A motion was made to approve this consent calendar item as presented by the Director of Development, and the motion received a second. A vote



was called, and the board members present voted unanimously to approve this consent calendar item as presented by the Director of Development.

#### **IV: Spot Light**

A: Student Reading Awards – at 6:13pm, Dean Hendrickson presented leveled reading awards to several 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students who were present at the meeting for the Student Reading Awards ceremony. Additionally, one student was recognized for receiving the “Google Doodle” art award.

B: Kuwanis Builder’s Club – at 6:21pm, Dariza Martinez, a representative from the local Kuwanis Club, presented on the Kuwanis Builder’s Club – a middle school program sponsored by the Kuwanis. She reported that the Kuwanis Builders Club at Merit Academy had decided to build bird houses for the Our Lady Of The Wood Catholic Church as a “thank you” for use of their athletic field space.

#### **V: Action Items**

A: Graduation Requirements – at 6:36pm, the Director of Development presented on the development of graduation requirements, how they’re aligned with state standards, and how the courses offered during the 2022-2023 9<sup>th</sup> grade year fit into that overall plan. A motion was made to adopt the graduation requirements plan as presented by the Director of Development, and the motion received a second. A vote was called, and the board members present voted unanimously to adopt the graduation requirements as present by the Director of Development.

#### **VI: Discussion Items**

A: Sub-Committees – the board discussed the importance and necessity for subcommittees within the structure of the school as the board transitions from a founding board to an administrative board. A *Fundraising Committee* and a *PR/Marketing Committee* were identified as likely starting points.

B: 2022-2023 Enrollment – the Director of Development presented on the current enrollment outlook for the next school year. It was reported that enrollment was on track to meet enrollment projections of 270. Additionally, it was reported that there would be two (2) Kindergarten classes, two (2) First Grade classes, two (2) Second Grade Classes, two (2) Third Grade Classes, and two (2) Fifth Grade classes.

C: Recruitment Up The Pass – it was reported that projections appeared to indicate that approximately 29 students would be enrolled at Merit Academy next year who live outside of the district.

D: Board Lunch / Showcase Day – discussion was had around Teacher Appreciation Week the first week of May and the need for plans to be made related to the board providing lunch at some point during that week.



## **VII: Reports**

A: Director of Development – at 6:52 pm, the Direction of Development reported on progress with offering concurrent enrollment courses to high school students through Pikes Peak Community College, as well as the placement test students would sit for: Acuplacer for English and EdReady for Math. It was reported that a member of Merit Academy’s staff is credentialed appropriately for teaching college English. The Director of Development continued by reporting the there is a need for new personnel, including an additional SPED teacher and a testing coordinator.

### **B: Board Member Reports**

- Board member Jason Ledlie spoke briefly on the Civic Conversation Series scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>, as well as progress made towards the chartering of a Civil Air Patrol Squadron within the school.

- Board member Nicole Waggoner spoke briefly on keeping regular meeting times scheduled for 6:00pm, as well as plans for running the upcoming lottery related to enrollment. She also gave an update on the status of the charter contract and facilities agreement processes, to the best of her knowledge.

## **VIII: Adjourn**

A motion was made at to adjourn the meeting, and the motion received a second. A vote was called, and the board members present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:08pm.