



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2024 6:00 PM

500 E. Kelley's Rd. Woodland Park, CO 80863

Merit Academy Science Room – Room 137

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. Call to order at 6:12 p.m.
- B. Roll Call - Dill, Waggoner, Ledlie, Illingworth and Sekowski were present.
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Public Comment: None

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Waggoner to amend the agenda to table approval of the 1/17/24 and 2/7/24 meeting minutes to the next meeting. Seconded by Dill. In favor: Waggoner, Sekowski, Ledlie, Dill, Illingworth. Opposed: None.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR.

Mr. Ledlie moved to approve the 12/19/23 and 2/20/24 meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Mr. Dill. In favor: Waggoner, Sekowski, Ledlie, Dill, Illingworth. Opposed: None
There were no new hires, resignations or terminations.

IV. TEACHER RECOGNITION

Dr. Pekron recognized Dean Hanson for covering multiple additional duties at the school in the last 2 weeks.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS.

- A. Gala Fundraiser Updates - The Board, Headmaster and Deans had a discussion regarding trying to drum up ticket sales for the annual Merit Gala, possibly by advertising outside Merit Academy and in the community, to involve the community more in the fundraiser.
- B. Donations and/or Grants – The Headmaster impressed the importance of devoting Board work sessions in the near future to fundraising initiatives, as well as updating the donor information packet for the school.

C. 2024-2025 Calendar – The Headmaster provided a draft of the 2024-2025 calendar to the Board, noting that some of the dates have shifted by a day or two to align more closely with the WPSD calendar. The Board also discussed that this calendar draft includes a longer Christmas break.

VI. ACTION ITEMS.

A. Mr. Ledlie moved to approve the draft 2024-2025 school calendar, with the motion seconded by Mr. Dill. In favor: Dill, Ledlie, Waggoner, Sekowski and Illingworth. Opposed: None.

VII. REPORTS.

Deans

The Deans updated the Board members on current attendance numbers at the various schools (Grammar, Logic and Rhetoric). The Deans also noted that PSAT preparation and CMAS testing preparation are well underway. The big events coming up in the near future include Pi Day and a House quarterly event scheduled for March 15. The 3Q assembly is scheduled for March 20.

Headmaster

Dr. Pekron celebrated the school's recent Science O win to the Board, as Merit students will be going to the state Science O competition for both Middle School and High School. The headmaster also updated on CTE curriculum updates, including CTE curriculum components to build tiny homes, learn veterinary technician skills, learn smithing and welding. The headmaster is also looking at the Career Start program, as well as advanced college courses.

Board

Ms. Waggoner and Mr. Dill updated that the lottery for the 2024-2025 school year was held on March 5, 2024. There were a total of 215 applicants, with 173 placed and 21 on the waitlist. 15% of the applicants were from outside of WPSD, with 28 students for Merit's new Pre-K program.

VIII. ADJOURN

Mr. Dill moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m., with the motion seconded by Ms. Waggoner. In favor: Dill, Waggoner, Ledlie, Sekowski, and Illingworth. Opposed: None.