



The Schools of McKeel Academy

McKeel Academy of Technology
McKeel Elementary Academy (dba McKeel Academy Central)
South McKeel Academy

Board of Trustees Meeting

MINUTES

November 19, 2013

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was held Tuesday, November 19, 2013, at The Schools of McKeel Academy Business Office. The meeting was called to order by Chair Taylor Caffey at 12:02 p.m. Trustees present included Taylor Caffey, Stephanie L. Campbell, Michael Peeples, Larry Ross, John Stargel, Mark Thompson, and Phillip Walker. Trustee Cathy Wooley-Brown attended via conference call. Trustee Seth McKeel was unable to attend. Staff present included Alan Black, Julie Ramirez, Judi Morris, Michele Spurgeon, Linda Acocelli, Susan Black, Mary White, Sue Maready, Michelle Montero and Olivia Hazell. Teachers of the Year in attendance included Wendy Georgevich, Brittani O'Connor, Rebecca Stacey, and Samantha Wilbur. Members of the public attending were: Mary Toothman from the Ledger, and Peter Helwig, Attorney representing Superintendent Maready.

➤ **Approval of Minutes**

Taylor Caffey called for approval of the minutes from the October 15, 2013, Board of Trustees meeting. *Upon a motion by Mark Thompson, seconded by Larry Ross, the minutes were approved as presented.*

Mr. Caffey entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2013. *Upon a motion made by Mark Thompson, seconded by Phillip Walker, the minutes were approved as presented.*

Mr. Caffey called for approval of the minutes from the November 13, 2013, Board of Trustees meeting. After a brief discussion of items in the minutes that needed to be amended Mr. Caffey entertained a motion to approve the minutes as amended. *Upon a motion made by John Stargel, seconded by Stephanie L. Campbell, the minutes were approved as amended.*

➤ **Public Comment**

None of the members of the public addressed the Board at this time.

➤ **Consent Agenda**

SMA IBP K-5 Dissemination Grant-Susan Black explained that SMA applied for and has been awarded The Public Charter Schools Grant Program-Instructional Best Practices K-5 Dissemination Grant for \$250K. They will be sharing best practices with low performing charter, public and private schools.

Upon a motion made by Mark Thompson, seconded by Phillip Walker, the motion to approve SMA receiving the IBP K-5 \$250K Dissemination Grant carried unanimously.

Magnify Credit Union Donation-Dr. Acocelli explained that MAT received a \$3000 donation from Magnify and they are interested in a continued business partnership with the school. The flexible learning lab has been renamed "The Magnify Learning Lab."

Upon a motion made by Mark Thompson, seconded by Larry Ross, the motion to approve the receipt of the \$3000 donation from Magnify Credit Union carried unanimously.

➤ **New Business**

- **Salary Schedules**-Ms. Ramirez reviewed the proposed salary schedules with the Board and after a brief discussion Mr. Caffey entertained a motion to approve the salary schedules as presented.

Upon a motion made by Phillip Walker, seconded by Stephanie L. Campbell, the motion to approve the salary schedules carried unanimously.

- **Financial Statement Template**-Ms. Ramirez reviewed the new financial statement template that she will be presenting to the Board on a quarterly basis.

➤ **Other**

Mr. Caffey opened the floor to the Board members for discussion about the investigation of the Superintendent. After a discussion by the Board members, Peter Helwing, attorney for Superintendent Maready, asked to address the Board. Mr. Helwig reported that his client is resigning his position as Superintendent.

Upon a motion made by Larry Ross, seconded by Stephanie L. Campbell, the motion to accept Superintendent Maready's resignation carried unanimously.

According to the TSMA Superintendent Succession Plan, upon unplanned departure the Assistant Superintendent will be appointed as the Interim Superintendent until a replacement is hired.

Upon a motion made by Larry Ross, seconded by Stephanie L. Campbell, the motion to appoint Alan Black as the Interim Superintendent for TSMA carried unanimously.

A search committee will be formed in order to hire a new Superintendent. After a brief discussion Mr. Caffey called for a motion to approve the formation of the search committee.

Upon a motion made by Larry Ross, seconded by Stephanie L. Campbell, the motion to form a search committee to hire a new Superintendent comprised of the Executive Committee, the principals from the 3 schools, as well as a staff liaison-Mary White; and develop a recruitment plan within 30 days carried unanimously as amended.

Ms. Ramirez explained that we need a statement of Corporate Officers reflecting the changes that have been made for banking purposes.

Upon a motion made by Mark Thompson, seconded by Phillip Walker, the motion to appoint Alan Black to the Corporate Officer position of President, and Judi Morris to Vice President carried unanimously.

There was a brief discussion about employees related to Mr. Black who report to the Superintendent.

Upon a motion made by Larry Ross, seconded by Mark Thompson, the motion to transfer supervision of employees related to Mr. Black who report to the Superintendent to Ms. Ramirez during Mr. Black's tenure as Interim Superintendent carried unanimously.

Mr. Caffey called an Executive Committee meeting after this meeting is adjourned for the purpose of drafting a letter to the staff concerning the Superintendent's resignation. Mrs. Black was asked to stay and help the committee draft the letter.

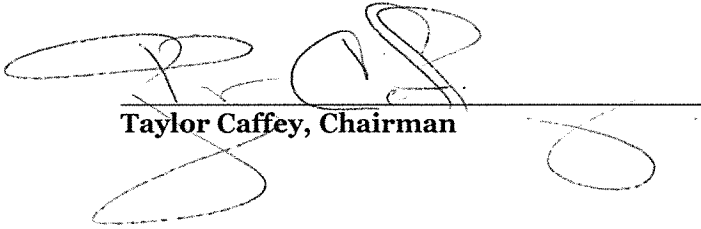
➤ **School Reports**

Principals will submit written school reports which will become a permanent part of the record of this meeting.

➤ **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

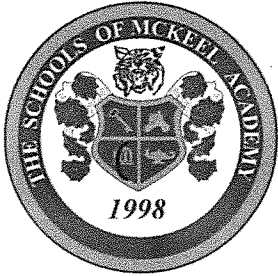
ATTEST:



Taylor Caffey, Chairman



Olivia Hazell, Secretary



McKeel Academy Central
(formerly McKeel Elementary Academy)
School Report, Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2013

- PTO raised \$1,000 at our Spooktacular Skate Night last month. The Spooktacular Skate Night replaced our Back to School Bash due to construction.
- We had 89 students make straight A's and had pizza with the principals.
- Community Service Projects: food collection (month of November for Lighthouse Ministries), toy collection (first two weeks in December for Salvation Army), caroling to nursing homes and preschool at First United Methodist Church
- Various grade levels pairing up to do Thanksgiving activities (Pilgrims and Indians)
- Our Christmas Concert is scheduled for Monday, December 16th at 6:30 at Victory Church

MAT School Report
November 18, 2013

- Senior Expo was a huge success- the projects were extremely well done. We had 86 different business partners overall...some of them taking more than one student. Some of the business partners who were open to multiple students were LRMC, Publix Child Development, the State's Attorney's Office, Crossfit, and Fish and Wildlife. For the first time we had an intern placed with 93.3 Radio Station in Clearwater/Tampa area – and one of our students actually went to flight school and learned to fly a plane. A couple of our students actually gained jobs from their internships and several business partners responded on their surveys that if they had the budget for a new hire that they would definitely hire the McKeel Academy intern placed with them.
- Homecoming – Game: December 6th Girls Foundation Christian Academy 6:00 and Boys are playing Life Christian at 7:30. The homecoming court will be announced at halftime of the boys' game. Dance: December 7th – Theme--Putting on the Ritz- Great Gatsby
- Wildwood- We have approximately 130 girls in Wildwood as we speak – tomorrow we will do the switch and the girls will return and the boys will go up until Friday. This is our 17th consecutive year doing the Wildwood trip. This is our 1st year we have Seniors as camp counselors. Mrs. McLaughlin reports that they are doing a fabulous job.
- Our 7th annual Veteran's Day breakfast and assembly was very well done—so many veterans express to me each year how much this means to them. Our guest speaker was Mark Jones, one of MAT's science teachers.
- After the Veteran's Day assembly, we had our 1st Annual 9th grade Youth in Government Mckeel Debate Invitational. Youth in Government community leaders came to help out. Seth McKeel spoke to our students and swore in the students before they began their Mock Congress debates.
- McKeel's Digital Imagery Academy has a booth set up at the We3 Expo at Sun & Fun this week Tuesday through Thursday.
- Mr. Nipper's dual enrollment-college business class and Ms. Cullins' marketing class will be welcoming guest speaker Johnny

Georges tomorrow during 8th period. Mr. Georges is an entrepreneur from Arcadia who recently appeared on ABC's prime time show Shark Tank.

- We had the Yellow Dress program presented to our 11th & 12th grade students. The Yellow Dress is a dramatic one-woman play based on the stories of young women who were victims of dating violence. The program includes discussion guides and resource materials to help students: Recognize the early warning signs of abuse; Learn how to help friends/family members who are victims or perpetrators of abuse; Understand the cycle of abuse; Access and utilize community resources.
- Career Shadowing- today we have approximately 650 9-11th grade students out in businesses Career Shadowing. This is a structured program run through all of the students' English classes.
- Our students just presented two evening drama performances of **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, as Performed by Professor TJ Barker's Troupe of Theatricals**. Everyone who attended said it was so well done! We are currently working on doing encore performances for SMA students this coming Friday and the Friday following our break.
- Teachers presenting at the Florida Charter School Conference- Melissa Borchers is presenting two different sessions at the Florida Charter School Conference this week and Cathy Dyer is presenting also on Thursday. Both teachers are part of our IBIS grant project.
- Magnify Credit -John Santarpia, CEO met with us and we gave him a grand tour. He was impressed with our program and wants to become a business partner with our school. We received a check from Magnify for \$3000 for the flexible learning lab.
- Girls and Boys Cross Country finished 1st in districts. Boys won Regionals and went to compete in Tallahassee. Boys Cross Country finished 5th in the state.
- The girls soccer team has started the season 7-1 (2-0 in the district) so we are looking for great things from our girls this year.
- 45- 9th grade students will be going to New York December 10th-14th.
- Our annual Winter Chorus Concert will be at Trinity Church on Memorial Blvd. December 16th at 7:00 p.m.

- Our Winter Band Concert will be December 17th at MAT in the auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

Lots of good stuff going on at MAT!



South McKeel Academy
Board Report
November 19, 2013

- 4th grade student, Bo Bailey, is one of ten Polk County students representing our school and county in the Elementary All-State Choir.
- Alexandra Morris, a 7th grader, has achieved a three-part audition process to make the Middle School All-State Treble Chorus. She is the first middle school student from our school to do so. Both of these choirs will be rehearsing and performing as part of the Florida Music Educators' Association Conference at the Tampa Bay Convention Center in January.
- Citizen CPR visited our school during lunch on October 24 to recognize Sandy Kutschinski, a regular sub at SMA during a recent maternity leave, who performed the Heimlich while she was on lunch duty. This was done during the 5th grade lunchtime of the student who was choking.
- November 4 and 5 all students PreK-7 were able to attend presentations by Omega Man who happens to be a SMA and MAT parent and has a great anti-bullying message. Sponsored by our PTO.
- All 1st – 7th grade A/B honor roll students recognized for ice cream parties after report cards went home on November 5.
- Middle School Field Day on Thursday, Nov. 21