



Minnesota State Academies Board

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 3:00 PM
MSAD Site Council Special Meeting
Electronic Means
615 Olof Hanson Drive
Faribault, MN 55021

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
 - A. Membership Updates
 - B. Election of New Vice Chair
4. New Business
 - A. Review Student Handbook Changes
5. Announcements
6. Adjournment

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INDIVIDUALS WHO REQUIRE ACCOMMODATIONS
SHOULD CONTACT LOLA BRAND
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MSAD SITE COUNCIL – Draft Minutes

Location: Zoom Meeting

Date: May 5, 2021

Member Attendance

- Charissa Johnson (Parent) - present
- Dawn Hill (Parent) - present
- Benny Dow (Student) -absent
- Dalina Schwartz (Student) - present
- Lance Gonzalez (Teacher) - present
- Laura SkyQuest (Teacher) - present
- Mike Adams (Residential) - present
- Zach Schaefer (SEPA) - present
- Heather Breitbach (Support Services) - present
- Kim Viskocil (Shared Services) - present
- Jennifer Smith-Hastings (Alumni) - present
- Jay Marking (Deaf Community) - present
- Matt Rademacher (Deaf Community) - present
- Riss Leitzke (Deaf Blind Community) - absent

Ex Officio Members

- Mary Cashman-Bakken (MDE) - present
- Terry Wilding (Superintendent) - present
- Anne Grace Donatucci (MSAD Director) - present
- Ronda Jo Donatucci (MSAD Dorm Director) - absent
- Lee Jones (MSAD Athletic Director) - absent
- Kim Barron (MSA Director of Communications) - absent
- Brittany Thomforde (MSA Director of Student Support Services) – present

1. Welcome and Roll Call - Lance called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - Mike made a motion to approve the April minutes. Zach seconded the motion.

3. Old Business - Nothing at this time.

4. New Business

- Update on Strategic Planning and Discussion of Strategic Planning Committees - appoint people to committees. Members reviewed the 16-page Strategic Plan document. Edits have been made and action steps have been added. This is not a final draft; changes and improvements are still being made. It will be posted on our website soon. Site Council members were asked for feedback and to join one of the five work groups/goal areas. The plan is for these committees to meet beginning in September during the second hour of Site Council meetings. Since some members' terms will be ending, this list will be updated as the Site Council membership is

confirmed. Rachel Thimjon, attending the meeting as a parent, expressed interest in supporting the School Climate and/or Statewide Visibility committees.

- School Climate - Charissa Johnson, Dalina Schwartz, Lance Gonzalez, Dawn Hill
- Student Life -
- Instruction and Assessment - Mary Cashman-Bakken, Lance Gonzalez
- Statewide Visibility - Matt Rademacher, Kim Viskocil
- Transition - Mary Cashman-Bakken
- Review Membership for Fall - Terms are up for the two student representative positions. Laura will have the students vote at the next SBG meeting. Terms are up for the Residential Program representative, the SEPA representative and the Student Support Services representative positions. Current members will check with their groups and notify us before June of their replacements or if they will plan to stay on. Candidates must apply through the Secretary of State website and be appointed by the MSA Board for these Site Council positions.
- Election of a New Vice Chair - Since membership was uncertain at the time of this meeting due to several terms ending, Mike moved that we elect a new vice chair at the May 19th meeting. Jenny seconded the motion. All were in favor.

5. Reports

- **Policy and Procedure Review** - Discussion was held and feedback was provided.
 - Policy 751 - MSA Library Collections Management -The purpose of this policy is to act as a guide for MSA libraries, primarily the MSAD student library, the MSA curriculum/resource library, and other resources within the library software system, to assign responsibilities and develop strategies that foster literacy development at MSA, and to ensure school community participation in decisions regarding selection, purchase, and as needed, removal of library books, resources, media, and materials.
 - Policy 904 - Distribution of Materials by Non-School Persons - The purpose of this policy is to provide for distribution of materials appropriate to the school setting by individuals who are not employees or students (non-school persons) at MSA on MSA property in a reasonable time, place, and manner which does not disrupt the educational program nor interfere with the educational objectives of MSA.
 - Policy 906 - Community Notification of Predatory Offenders - The purpose of this policy is to assist MSA administrators and employees in responding to a notification by a law enforcement agency that a convicted predatory offender is moving into the community so that they may better protect individuals in the school's care while they are on or near MSA premises or under the control of MSA.
- **Superintendent**
 - Update on Budget in Legislature - Things are still up in the air at this time. Committees are meeting. We should know more by May 17th.
 - Plans for the summer - It will be a busy summer with numerous projects such as replacing the Tate Hall roof, work being done on sidewalks and curbs, and new wifi being installed. We will be replacing some laptops, moving to Office 365 after the summer programs are done, and improving our internet connectivity. We will host the Pathways to Life summer transition program. Mark Schwartz will lead the June program virtually with eight students. The Extended School Year program will be held for two weeks in July. PTSA will partner with our ESY program and provide free t-shirts for participants. A question was asked about how ESY is advertised. Britt explained that ESY

is a targeted program for students that qualify. Also, at this time, MDE hasn't provided all of the guidance regarding programming and limitations yet, so more information will be coming soon. Mary added that, because of Covid, MDE is allowing districts to provide ESY in their own districts which may impact our numbers.

- Lola Brand's Retirement - After almost 40 years, Lola's last day will be May 7th. Kim Barron will fill in temporarily beginning on May 11th, doing specific duties of both hers and Lola's positions until fall when positions will be posted. Congratulations Lola!
- Discussion of future Student Center - There are several projects on our minds, such as the MSAB dorm renovations, possibly replacing the pool, and the Pollard Hall project. We have also asked for design money for a Student Center to propose next year to the legislature. A building such as this would serve many purposes well into the future. At this time, ideas are being gathered and discussions are being held about what it might look like. It's a ways off and there are no guarantees, but the conversations are happening.
- **MSAD Director**
 - With three weeks of school left, we are busy with many end of year events.
 - We are trying to determine if we can hold Track and Field Day.
 - May 27th will be graduation day for our PreK, 5th and 8th grade students, with ceremonies taking place at separate times. Immediate family members will attend in person and it will be live streamed for others to view. To aid in the transition to their next grade level, an Orientation Day will be held for these students on May 14th.
 - May 28th is our last day of school. At 11:00 a.m. we will host our high school graduation. It will not be open to the public, but will be live streamed.
 - We've been busy with end of year orders, curriculum planning, summer training, teacher assignments for next fall and Extended School Year.
 - Being unable to do in person campus tours at this time, we've begun providing virtual tours, connecting with families by Zoom and showing them around with an iPad. This has been well received by families. We are looking forward to new enrollments.
 - In recognition of National Interpreter Appreciation Day, we thank our wonderful interpreters for all they do!
- **MSAD Dorm Director** - Nothing at this time.
- **Other Reports - Lance**
 - Rocco Lauricella joined us to share his vision related to providing Deaf children with experiences related to music. Members were encouraged to contact him if they were interested in scheduling a course or activity.

6. Committee Work - No work was done at this time.

7. Announcements - Please plan to attend the Special Site Council Meeting on May 19th, 3:00-4:00 p.m. to review the Student Handbook changes.

8. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.