



John Muir Charter Schools
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John Muir Charter Schools Meeting of the Board of Directors

Wednesday November 15, 2017

12:00 p.m.

Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps

6101 27th Street

Sacramento, CA 95822

Audio of this meeting will be recorded

AGENDA

- 1. Meeting Call to Order**
- 2. Introduction and Welcome**
- 3. Introduction of Participants**
- 4. Oral Communications/Public Comments:** Recognition of individuals wishing to comment on non-agenda items may do so at this time. Individuals who wish to address an agenda item may do so at this time or at the time the agenda item is heard. After being recognized by the board president, please identify yourself. No individual presentation shall be for more than three (3) minutes and the total time for this purpose shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Ordinarily, board members will not respond to presentations and no action can be taken. However, the board may give direction to staff following a presentation.
- 5. Additions to the Agenda**
- 6. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 7. Action Items**
 - A. Closed Session:
 - i. Pending/Existing Litigation (non-settlement) - Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation: FIELD (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1))
 - B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on October 18, 2017 (Attachment #1, Page 3)
 - C. Approval of Vendor Payments 9/27/17 - 10/31/17 (Attachment #2, Page 11)
 - D. Approval of New and Termed Employees 10/01/17 - 10/31/17 (Attachment #3, Page 21)
 - E. Approval of Position Description Revision: Career Pathways Trust Grant (CPTG) Specialist Revised to Community Resource Coordinator (Attachment #4, Page 23)

- F. Approval of Position Description Revision: Career Pathways Trust Grant (CPTG) Director Revised to Community Resource Director (Attachment #5, Page 27)
- G. Policy Approval: Development, Recruitment, Hiring, Position Change and Termination of JMCS Employees (Attachment #6, Page 33)
- H. New Curriculum Approval: SEI Curriculum (Attachment #7, Page 37)

8. Discussion Items

- A. Discussion: JMCS 2016-2017 Administration Costs by Department (Attachment #8, Page 53)
- B. Policy Discussion: Board Policy #1: Role of the Governing Board, Responsibilities, and Designation of Powers - 3rd Reading (Attachment #9, Page 55)
- C. Procedure Discussion: Procedure for the Support and Supervision of First Year Teachers - 2nd Reading (Attachment #10, Page 63)
- D. Academic Performance Task Assessments (Attachment #11, Page 65)
- E. CEO's Report (R.J. Guess)
 - i. Legislative Update
 - ii. Operations Update
- F. Board Reports
 - i. Stan Miller - Minney, Young & Corr Conflict of Interest Workshop
 - ii. Sallie Wilson - NCSOS Brown Act Training

9. Information Items

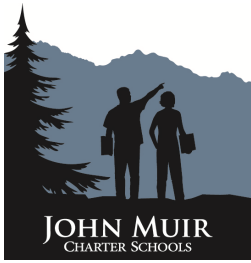
- A. Correspondence
- B. Schedule of Future Board Meetings:
 - i. Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 12 pm at Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps, 6101 27th Street, Sacramento, CA 95822
 - ii. Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 12 pm at Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps, 6101 27th Street, Sacramento, CA 95822

10. Board Attendance at Next Meeting

- A. Stan Miller: Yes or No
- B. Michael Corbett: Yes or No
- C. Len Eckhardt: Yes or No
- D. Sallie Wilson: Yes or No
- E. Gil Botello: Yes or No

11. Request for Agenda Items

12. Adjournment



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John Muir Charter Schools
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday November 15, 2017
10:00 a.m.
Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps
6101 27th Street
Sacramento, CA 95822

Audio of this meeting will be recorded

AGENDA

1. Meeting Call to Order

JMCS Board President Stan Miller called the meeting to order at 10:22 am.

2. Introduction and Welcome

Stan Miller welcomed all participants.

3. Introduction of Participants

JMCS Board members in attendance: Stan Miller, Gil Botello, Sallie Wilson, and Len Eckhardt.
JMCS staff in attendance: CEO R.J. Guess, COO Mike Wegner, Director Central Region Charley Pratt-Guess, Director Northern Region Dawn McConnell, Fiscal Analyst Rachael Navarrete and Administrative Coordinator Kelli Foster. JMCS board members not in attendance: Michael Corbett.

- 4. Oral Communications/Public Comments:** Recognition of individuals wishing to comment on non-agenda items may do so at this time. Individuals who wish to address an agenda item may do so at this time or at the time the agenda item is heard. After being recognized by the board president, please identify yourself. No individual presentation shall be for more than three (3) minutes and the total time for this purpose shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Ordinarily, board members will not respond to presentations and no action can be taken. However, the board may give direction to staff following a presentation.

None.

5. Additions to the Agenda

None.

6. Adoption of the Agenda

Len Eckhardt made a motion to adopt the agenda. Gil Botello seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Ayes: Miller, Eckhardt, Botello, Wilson. Absent: Corbett).

7. Discussion Items

A. Discussion: JMCS Structure, Mission, and Objectives for 2018-2019 School Year

R.J. Guess said this open discussion is about where the school should be heading as we move into our 3rd year of declining enrollment. JMCS student enrollment is now down to the level it was at in the 2006-2007 school year. He discussed the education program and the administrative structure in 2006-2007 and highlighted the differences between then and now. In 2006-2007, JMCS had 36 school sites with a total of 8 full time administrators. In 2017-2018, we have 42 school sites with 11 full time administrators. He spoke about the effect of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) on JMCS enrollment. He said enrollment at JMCS started to decline as soon as the CAHSEE graduation requirement was removed and the economy improved so that high school dropouts could find employment. He said JMCS is facing competition from independent study charters schools who serve students of any age, including students within the prison system. These independent study schools are able to generate a good amount of resources and use those resources to open multiple sites, recruit new partners and even take partners away from JMCS.

With the struggles JMCS is facing with enrollment and partnerships, R.J. said he is looking to the board for direction in several areas. The first to be discussed was the JMCS administrative structure. Discussion included whether or not the administrative staff should be reduced, how the reduction of administrative staff comes with potential to abuse continuing staff with overwork and burnout, implementing an immediate freeze on hiring and looking at the administrative responsibilities and determining if there is a way to move them to reduce staff without impacting the educational program. There was general consensus that any changes should be accomplished with the goal of not impacting the good work that is being done with JMCS students.

Discussion also occurred regarding partnerships. Gil Botello believes there is opportunity to partner with innovative charter schools who are succeeding with a work readiness and high school diploma program model. He would like to explore how charters, nonprofits and local providers can work together at schools sites to add value for the students. Comments included that the importance of understanding what each partner brings to the table and making sure partner agencies understand that JMCS is not a revenue source for their programs. R.J. spoke about struggles with current partner agencies and proposed changes to reimbursement of rent and other costs.

The potential for JMCS to offer independent study to students who reside in counties contiguous to Nevada County was discussed. R.J. said although it is a possibility, he does not feel it would be in the best interest of JMCS or its students. He said providing an independent study program is complex for instruction and fiscal accounting as the bureaucracy is intensive. Discussion included the attractiveness of such a program to students, whether there are enough potential students in contiguous counties to operate a program, piloting a program in one county and the difficulties of starting a brand new program. Both Gil and Len advised R.J. to be cautious about taking the school in totally new direction and suggested that he look at ways to enhance the current academic program.

R.J. posed the question “is there value for serving students over 24 years old”. He stated that he is concerned about the competing charter schools who are serving students of any age. He feels they

are threatening the California Ed Code exemption that allows JMCS to serve students over the age of 19. He said JMCS has honored the age cap in the Ed Code exemption within the spirit of the law and not within the technical details of the law. He does not want to jeopardize the exemption with the California Department of Education. He does believe that there is potential to serve younger students through a cradle to career school model.

Gil stated there is a need to discuss recruitment and retention of students. He believes that recruitment is not a JMCS responsibility and that partner agencies can do a better job at it. He said student retention is a JMCS issue and that is where our focus needs to be. Mike said that is the message that is currently going out to the teachers. The message is that their job is in the classroom and making the classroom the most exciting place our students can be. R.J. said the best recruitment for JMCS has always been word of mouth by our students.

R.J. stated that this topic will be a discussion item at the December regular board meeting and he will discuss cuts to the budget at that time.

8. Adjournment

Stan Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.