



## MERRITT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Mission Statement

**“The mission of Merritt Academy is to instill in its students academic excellence, character development, a love for life long learning and service to others.”**

### Approved Minutes

**REGULAR MEETING – March 24, 2022**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Merritt Academy**

**59900 Havenridge**

**New Haven, Michigan 48048**

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President White-Jones at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Roll Call**

K. Boska- present  
J. Dery-present  
A. White-Jones-present  
K. Bochatyn-present  
D. VanDeKerkhove-present

#### **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion by Member Bochatyn, seconded by Member Dery to approve the agenda

YES – 5                      NO – 0  
Motion carried.

#### **Call to the Public**

None

#### **Consent Items**

Motion by Member Boska, seconded by Member VanDeKerhove to approve the February 24, 2022 minutes

YES – 5                      NO – 0  
Motion carried

Motion by Member Dery, seconded by Member Bochatyn to approve the Board's Treasurer's report from February 2022

YES – 5                      NO – 0  
Motion Carried.

**ESP/Principal Report**

Nate- Open enrollment-had 57 applications and will have lottery drawings in K, 1,6,8,9; MSTEP testing will begin after Spring Break and will be counting towards the letter grade this year; High School and Middle School Concert Bands received all 1's at festival but there will not be State's this year; due to timing and testing we have decided not to make the big move into the building expansion this school year

Dan- ESSAR grant has been approved and funds are being drawn down-still have some to spend; just received 121 chromebooks ordered in November; Orchard Construction has been create to work with and should be completing their final job (landscaping) May 18<sup>th</sup>; will be getting new carpeting in the high school hallways starting June 15; lights are all fixed, high school gym roof leak and fix; over summer the middle school roof will be replaced and preschool playground redone; will be starting budget process in April; submitted Michigan State Police Safe Schools Grant for additional purchases to secure dead zone areas for announcements and door replacement

Tracy- School Improvement team met in March and started reviewing strategies suggested for each content area to determine what makes the most sense to meet the needs of our students

-Finalized 5 curriculum questions to be included on parent survey

**Board Correspondence**

None

**Discussion Items**

**Content Review Committee**

My intent would be to pitch the idea of such committee to the board at this meeting (*\*still early-in-concept, receptive of all insights and suggestions*), with understanding that establishment of such committee would not be voted on until April or likely

even further into summer months [after all details of membership, meeting frequency, scope, authority *or lack thereof*, expectations, etc were agreed upon by The Board] with further understanding that *[if approved]* such committee would not actually be formed and implemented until yet even later in the year after announcements for applicants would be made to staff and parents, with invitation to apply for committee membership.

The basic concept for this committee would be for a (5? 7?)-member committee composed of parents, staff, and board member/s to convene [monthly? quarterly?] with purpose of reviewing existing [*and to the extent reasonably feasible, possibly future-considered*] texts and other school/class materials, with intent to offer reports to The School Board and Administration the committee's findings of material suitability as relates to potentially-objectionable content (examples could include be would not necessarily be limited to: sexual nature, pro/anti-religiously-insistent insinuations, pro-anti-political ideologies, contextual and proportional accuracy and appropriateness of material, etc). I think the committee should primarily serve in a proactive capacity, with intent of primarily reviewing materials before any objections should arise - but would surely think it be appropriate that the committee be apprised of any [if any] content-suitability objections brought forth by parents, and somehow serve or compliment in a long-term reactive capacity as well. After discussion with personnel and consideration of the matter, I would lean against giving such committee any binding authority, but would rather imagine giving them a suggestive role, with The School Board and Administration having the final say over actionable responses to findings.

- this would be an advisory role
- discussion of possibly picking 3-4 "hot button topics" to review
- discussion to possible consider developing a PTA as a discussion platform
- discussion on how is it even possible to review everything

- board agreed to have Tracy reach out to Doug to either attend or zoom at next meeting for his opinion and keep on as discussion item

-  
Review and Meet Board Applicants

**Action Items**

Motion by Member VanDeKerkhove, seconded by Member White-Jones recommend Christina Zettle to SVSU for appointment of open board position

YES – 4                      NO – 0  
Motion Carried

Motion by Member Boska, seconded by Member Dery recommend Shantail Jefferson to SVSU for appointment of open board position

YES – 4                      NO – 0  
Motion Carried

Karen Bochatyn did not vote as she was one of the candidates

**Board Committee  
Reports/Board  
Individual Comments**

None

**Call to the Public**

Parent shared they liked the evening meeting and also the idea of the PTA discussed earlier in the meeting

**Announcement/  
Upcoming Events**

The next Regular Board of Director's meeting will be held on April 28, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. at Merritt Academy.

**Adjournment**

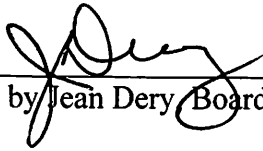
Motion by Member Boska, seconded by Member Dery to adjourn the meeting.

YES – 5                      NO – 0

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

The above minutes were duly adopted by the Merritt Academy Board of Directors at a properly noticed open meeting held on April 28, 2022 at which a quorum was present.

Approved: April 28, 2022



---

Submitted by Jean Dery Board Secretary

These meetings of the Board of Directors are in public for the purpose of conducting the school's business and are not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during each meeting as indicated in the agenda. Upon request to the academy office, the academy shall make reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability to be able to participate in this meeting.