

## **Wausau Area Montessori Charter School – Governance Council Special Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** June 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm

**Location:** Montessori Charter School – 3101 N 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Wausau, WI 54403 - Room 234/236

**Present:** Jenny Peaslee, Bill Conway, Kathy Sponder, Mark Johnson, Kim Casey, Stacey Paradowski, Andrea Sheridan, Shawn Bassett, Kevin Keeffe

**Absent,** but attending via SKYPE: Amber Neuske

**Also attending:** Erin Bailey and Charles Patten

### **Open Session**

**Call to order** – 4:35 Jenny

**Welcome** – Jenny - Introduction of topic of discussion. Letter from WSD Director of Human Resources, Jeff Gress, dated June 22, 2017. Established process for discussion – maintaining respect for all speakers given the sensitivity of the subject matter and keeping comments to 5 minutes. All members will be given time to speak and ask questions.

At this time Kevin stated that he has an idea on how to start, and that “Kathy said that the first order of business would be to demand his resignation which “wasn’t going to happen at this time”. And he stated that before we do anything there needs to be a motion. Kathy stated that we would begin with a discussion item to discuss Jeff Gress’s letter, and that it wasn't necessary to make a motion for a discussion item and that we would stick with the agenda as presented. With that, the meeting proceeded as follows:

### **Discussion Items**

1. The Memorandum from WSD Director of Human Resources, Jeff Gress, dated June 22, 2017. The memo is regarding district procedures and expectations of the hiring process, and cites unprofessional and inappropriate actions taken by our Council President, Kevin Keeffe to circumvent the process.

All attendees had an opportunity to read the memo except Charles, who was provided with a copy by the secretary.

Kevin stated that there should be a motion to discuss. There was a consensus to move forward with the discussion without a motion. Kevin was given the opportunity to speak first and addressed the council with an uninterrupted 20-minute prepared statement.

Each of the council members then spoke in turn, and by consensus proceeded to the action item on the agenda, to request the resignation of Kevin Keeffe as our sitting president.

## Action Items

1. Disciplinary Action – In accordance with WAMCS Bylaws, Article III, Section 6.
  - i. Request the immediate resignation of sitting Governance Council President, Kevin Keeffe and if he refuses, by word or non-attendance, a motion will be made to hold a vote to end his term.
    - Kevin refused to offer his resignation.
    - Kim Casey then made a motion to go to a vote to have Kevin Keeffe step down as the sitting president of the WAMSC due to misconduct. Bill seconded the motion.
    - Before moving to a vote, there was discussion about who was able to vote. There was discussion as to whether Amber, attending via SKYPE, was able to vote. Shawn made a motion to allow Amber to vote and Bill seconded. All ayes. Motion Carried.
    - Kevin called for a roll call vote. A vote was taken and the results were as follows: Kathy – Remove Kevin, Jenny – Remove Kevin, Mark – Remove Kevin, Kim – Remove Kevin, Bill – Remove Kevin. Shawn – Keep Kevin, Amber – Keep Kevin, Stacey – Keep Kevin, Kevin – Keep Kevin. At this point 2/3<sup>rds</sup> vote is required to remove. Not sufficient votes to pass.
    - Mark made a motion to censure Kevin. It is not seconded. Jenny stated that there still needs to be discussion about the viability of Kevin’s vote in this matter. By consensus, Kevin’s vote was eliminated. And there still isn’t enough votes to carry the vote.
    - Kevin gave another statement and then stated that he was willing to step aside at such a time that this body is willing to hold a new election, whenever that would be. Kathy asked him if that meant that he was stepping down, to which he stated that he would step down at that point. It was decided by consensus that our 2 co-vice presidents (Jenny and Bill) will assume the responsibilities of the president until an election is conducted.
    - Mark’s motion to censure was vacated.
    - Shawn made a motion to hold an election at our next meeting. It was not seconded.
    - Kathy made a motion to have our co-vice presidents serve out the term as president until the fall elections. Jenny seconded the motion.
    - In the course of discussion, Stacey expressed her frustration with Kevin’s manipulations and maneuvering, that implied that he was stepping down, but without actually saying that he was stepping down without contingencies, and decided to change her vote from “Keep

Kevin” to “Remove Kevin”. There were now sufficient votes to remove Kevin from office.

2. Kevin Keeffe was removed as president by 2/3rds vote and the general consensus of the Governance Council. Effective immediately, Jenny and Bill will hold the position of co-presidents until the fall election, when official officer elections are held. Until then, they will jointly assume all responsibilities of the presidency.

Mark motioned to adjourn, Kim seconded the motion, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.