Meeting Date:

12-22-17

Location:

3885 NW 24<sup>th</sup> Blvd.

Gainesville, FL 32605

Call to Order:

Dr. Terzian called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Roll Call was taken.

Members Present:

Steven Borst

**Board Member** 

Sevan Terzian

Board President

Michele Borst

**Board Secretary** 

Members Absent:

Tom Allin

Board Vice President

Arthur Newman

**Board Treasurer** 

In Attendance:

Neil Drake

Board Representative

Principal Designee

Parent Representative ORSH

Diane Drake

**Business Director** 

Parent Representative ORMS

Sarah Sonberg

Principal

This meeting was conducted in accordance with Florida Statutes which require:

- two public meetings per school year in the school district
- meetings noticed, open, and accessible to the public
- attendees provided opportunity to receive information and provide input
- physical presence of parent representative and principal or designee

### CONSULTANT REPORT:

Mr. Drake reported that the middle school is smaller again this year. He noted that the majority of teachers are teaching out of field due to their original licensure as elementary teachers. He recommended to the board that they consider restructuring the schools in order to retain the sixth grade and eliminate seventh and eighth grades.

The sixth grade class is always the largest middle school class and continues to be fed by a larger and larger 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. However, natural movement out of the middle school due to families moving out of district is not being offset with replacement students in seventh and eighth grades. It has always been the case that families are reluctant to change schools in midstream.

The middle school contract requires that the school shall serve grades six through eight. The elementary school is currently contracted for K through fifth. Mr. Drake suggested that the best way to approach a restructuring would be to close the middle school and ask the school board to amend the elementary contract to go through sixth grade with an additional 40 students. All current teachers are qualified to teach K through sixth grade and there is a large pool of new teachers graduating with this certification.

Mr. Drake said that in any case the board should consider closing the middle school as it does not serve very many students, only six graduates last year, and they take up a disproportionate amount of classroom space, teacher time and administrative duties. The school could serve more students more effectively with a kindergarten through sixth grade configuration.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

The Business Director presented the board with the current financial statements, reviewed them, and answered the board's questions.

### PRINCIPAL REPORT

Ms. Sonberg reported that the school was operating efficiently and effectively in all areas. She stated that she fully supports the idea of going to a Kindergarten through sixth grade format. Seventh and eighth grade students often present the most difficult academic and behavioral concerns and take up an extreme amount of teacher and administrator time. She added that it will be very difficult going forward to find certified teachers as a teacher can only teach out of field for one year.

Ms. Sonberg told the board that, because of changes in state testing dates, the school will have to open at least a week later next year and possibly later than that.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### 1. Adopt Minutes:

Motion: Adopt the minutes from the annual Board Meeting of 9-17-17 as they have been recorded. (Terzian)

Second:

M. Borst

Vote:

Yea - 3

No - 0

**Motion Carries** 

### 2. Adopt the 2018-19 School Planning Calendar:

0

Motion: The Board adopts the planning calendar as presented and, recognizing the fluidity that state testing changes requires, authorizes the board representative and the principal to modify the calendar on their own authority going forward. (Terzian)

Second:

M. Borst

Vote:

Yea - 3

No -

**Motion Carries** 

3. School System Reorganization: The Board discussed the ramifications of reorganizing the schools in order to address fiscal and structural challenges related to a small middle school.

Motion: The Board authorizes the Board Representative to consult with the school district and negotiate an acceptable proposal to move the sixth grade over to the elementary school and eliminate the seventh and eighth grades for the 2018-19 school year. (Terzian)

Second:

M. Borst

Vote:

Yea - 3

No - 0

**Motion Carries** 

### 4. Florida School Recognition Program Funds:

Motion: The Board of Directors designates that awards funding for the 16-17 testing be used for nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment or materials to assist in maintaining and improving student performance. (Terzian)

Second:

M. Borst

Vote:

Yea - 3

No - 0

Motion Carries

### 5. Approve Transfer of Reserve Funds:

Motion: The Board of Directors approves the transference of up to \$140,259.00 of unrestricted reserve funds of One Room Middle School to the account of The One Room School House Project, Inc. to be used for future use. (Terzian)

Second:

M. Borst

Vote:

Yea - 3

No - 0

**Motion Carries** 

#### MEMBERS CONCERNS

- New Board Member: Dr. Terzian welcomed Steve Borst to the board as a voting member having completed his mandatory board training.
- Next Meeting: Dr. Terzian requested that the board meet in March.

These minutes were faithfully recorded by Michelle Borst, Secretary. We agree that these minutes honestly and faithfully represent the business of the Board of Directors at their meeting on 12-22-17.

Steve Borst

Sevan Terzian

Michele Borst