

## HOS Report 7/16/20

### Authorizer update

WAPS has been terminated as an authorizer. I am working with Jodi from Ridgeway, Mike Schultz and Paula Higgins from the MDE Charter Center, and Eugene from MACS to secure a new Authorizer beginning July 2021. Termination docs from MDE are included in tonight's meeting materials.

We will discuss the authorizer search process in a separate line item later.

### MDE Fall planning survey

The survey results are in tonight's folder for your review. Primary takeaways:

- 64.3% of respondents are "comfortable sending your students back to a classroom this fall"
  - Of that group 94.4% indicated a preference to return to "school full time"

### Fall planning update

The July 27th date is approaching. MDE has stated that they will make a statement by then as to which scenario they will direct schools to follow:

1. Full return to school
2. Hybrid of onsite and distance learning
3. Distance learning exclusively

We have collected guidance docs from MDE, MDH, MSBA, AASA, DHS, SWWC, and the CDC.

### Job Descriptions

All job descriptions are updated and have been reviewed by the employee(s) in those positions for accuracy. We need to develop a plan of action to finalize them. Perhaps a 3 person subcommittee of the Board can review them all, the entire Board can do so at the retreat, other ideas?

### IEA (Institute for Environmental Assessment)

I was introduced to IEA in a webinar that I signed up for. The presentation was one of the best, well organized, and detail oriented presentations that I have seen during this period of Covid 19. They provided folders of posters for the school, documents to review from the CDC and MDH, and a sample of a template for restarting the school year. After reviewing the detailed template, which has all three scenarios embedded in it, I reached out to their contact to discuss how they could help us. I was very impressed once again, and all things considered, working with IEA will elevate everything we are trying to accomplish.

I signed a contract with IEA to provide support services to the school as we look at the logistics of reopening. They have a wealth of resources and experience that will help us greatly. Today they conducted a capacity audit for the school. We will be working with them to really nail down the non-educational/non-academic pieces of this process.

#### PPP Loan update

The PPP Loan continues to draw some criticism with regard to charter schools, even though we are eligible. There are questions of need in that we are also a government agency and have received support. This was a topic of debate on Tuesday in a MACS conference call as well. One school applied and then declined it. Many others accepted it stating that we are eligible, we can show need in many different ways, and that the financial assistance like the CARES ACT money is grossly inadequate. The discussion again included the highly probable state holdbacks that will be coming. The bottom line is that we are using the loan in a completely appropriate way, in the way that it was intended, and can demonstrate that beginning with our considerable losses this spring due to the loss of revenue in the Preschool program, which may continue this year, and potentially into the next.

Our forgiveness period has ended, and we are awaiting Merchant's confirmation that the application portal is open and functional.

#### IT support-managed services

HBC will be providing our managed IT services moving forward. This will include adding 2 WIFI access points, upgrading the existing 4, adding 2 upgraded switches, remote dashboard access/help tickets, and getting the last server for the HVAC system migrated to their site.

The RFP for this was posted publicly.

#### Winona Nonprofit Alliance

Bluffview has joined a local group called the Winona Nonprofit Alliance, formerly called the Roundtable. Many of the excellent local nonprofits that we work with are members of the group, and Bluffview can only benefit from a membership to a strong, local organization like this.

#### CARES Act

GEER and ESSER monies have been accepted in SERVUS (MDE), and the funds have been accepted in their system. We (BergenKDV and I) are waiting for the application window to open so that the process can be completed.

*\*Because there is unsettled disagreement between Congress, state education agencies, and the U.S. Department of Education, and because U.S. Secretary DeVos has indicated she may pursue rulemaking to codify the guidance, MDE recommends that school systems hold an estimated equivalent of the disputed amount of the funding in escrow and make no draws from that amount, until there is a final, Federal determination.*