



Inspiring Dreams. Growing Possibilities.

**The Biome School  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Agenda Open Session**

**Date: August 30, 2022**

**Time: 5:00 pm via Zoom**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

We engage students in an individualized and challenging, yet nurturing, educational environment, enriching their minds and cultivating confident and creative builders of the future.

**I. PRELIMINARY**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Brian Phillips welcomed all to the Biome School Board Meeting. The meeting was held via Zoom. There was no quorum at 5:06 pm. The meeting began with informal discussions.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Directors Present

Jeff Gamble

Tim Houghton

Damion Jones

Ellen Mocerri

Brian Phillips

Staff Present

Tad Hartmann (UMSL)

Bill Kent

Mark Kent

Shari Pittman

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

No quorum for approval of agenda.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

No quorum for approval of June 27, 2022 minutes.

**III. PRESIDENT AND CEO REPORT – BILL KENT**

**A. The Biome School Staff Vaccination Policy**

The Biome School Staff Vaccination Policy was included in the board packet. Bill Kent reviewed and requested to rescind the policy. A quorum was not available to rescind the Staff Vaccine Policy.

B. SY2022-2023 Enrollment and Retention Data

Bill Kent discussed the school's current enrollment and retention data, which was included in the board packet. The 2022-23 expected student enrollment was 199. There was a loss of 23 students due to attrition. There are continued concerns about families leaving St. Louis City and moving to the county and families seeking K-8 schooling options. Due to the efforts of the school's enrollment and recruitment coordinator, the school was able to fill all open seats in K-1. The school is considering the possibility of an additional K class for the 2023-24 school year. Questions were asked and answered.

C. Kindergarten Emergent Literacy Assessment Trends 2020-2022 (Presentation)

Bill Kent reviewed the Literacy Assessment with the directors. Many incoming K-students are not meeting grade level expectations upon entering Kindergarten. The school is considering a summer academy for incoming K-students. It requires considerable time to move incoming students to meeting expectation. Damion Jones and Ellen Mocerri volunteered to help with this effort.

D. SY2021-22 EOY Results Highlights

Bill Kent reviewed the EOY Results Highlights, which was included in the board packet. He also introduced the new Dean of Students, Monica Gillespie, to the directors. Of note, ELA improved from 28% - 42% in grades 3-5. Bill congratulated the teaching staff on their continued efforts to increase literacy across the school. Bill also discussed challenges the school is facing. The school continues to struggle with teacher retention especially in grades 3-5. The retention rate for 2021-22 was 54% with teachers citing burnout and a challenging school culture and climate. Meetings were held with grade 2 teachers to discuss why they are staying and how they have built a strong teaching partnership.

E. Strategic Plan Update

Bill Kent informed the directors that a strategic plan draft will be available by September 6, 2022. He informed that he is working to incorporate all the ideas discussed during the planning meeting.

**IV. FUNDRAISING**

A. 2022 Gala

Mark explained that the sponsorship goal is \$125,000 with \$123,000 received, with an additional \$40,000 in asks outstanding. The board was asked to help with live auction items and to be in attendance to help ensure a successful event.

B. YTD Fundraising Progress

Mark Kent discussed the YTD Fundraising Report, which was included in the board packet. The school is currently met 30% of this year's individual giving goal. To date,



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the amount raised for individual giving is \$59,285 and the goal is \$213,495. Additionally, the school received an individual gift of \$20,000 to purchase books for the students.

### V. FINANCE

#### A. Review of Financials – Month Ending July 31, 2022

Bill Kent informed the members that income continued to trend positively due to DESE state funding, and the school is performing favorable to budget. The recent DESE advanced payment allowed for the school to end the year in the black. Bill thanked the Finance Committee for their continued budget management expertise, along with conservative spending, which allows the school to continue having strong financial performance. Questions were asked and answered.

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

### VII. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Shari Pittman  
Director of Operations

Approved by,

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Brian Phillips  
Biome School Board President