

Mountain West Montessori Academy

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 26, 2020

Location: MWMA Library, 4125 W. Foxview Drive, South Jordan, UT 84009



NOTE: It is possible that the MWMA Board of Directors may be utilizing an electronic meeting component with one or more of their members.

In Attendance: Steve Barnes, Nelson Altamirano, Andrew Marx, Lois Bobo (via Zoom)

Excused: Corbin White

Others in Attendance: Angie Johnson, Cathie Hurst, Dawn Kawaguchi, Sheri Ebert, Brandon Fairbanks, Royce Van Tassell

*Founded upon Montessori philosophy, the mission of **Mountain West Montessori Academy** is to facilitate student-centered learning and intellectual curiosity through an individualized and interdisciplinary curriculum, hands-on experience, and community involvement.*

Minutes

2020-2021 BOARD PRIORITIES

High Standard Cleanliness
Improve Mental Health & Safety of Student & Staff
Improve Literacy Instruction & Outcomes

6:07 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Call to Order – Steve Barnes
- School Mission – Nelson
- *Montessori Mastery* – Played a Montessori trivia game on our electronic devices with the game Kahoot! Angie created ten questions that are Montessori related and of course Dr. Lois Bobo had the highest score.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Royce Van Tassell** made a public comment. Royce is the Executive Director UAPCS. He gave a brief overview of Amendment G. It would amend the State Constitution to require the income tax dollar to be used for public and higher education for children and people with disabilities. They are committing to guarantee that the legislature will fund growth from year to year and an inflationary adjustment to the value of the WPU which is typically about 2.5%. In addition, they are going to create another fund where they are going to take a portion of the growth off the top every year and put it in there so when things go south

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that they can back fill. Utah increased public education funding by 2.3%. Royce also mentioned as a note that there are three races for the State Board of Education.

REPORTS

➤ Director

- State of the School – Angie Johnson reviewed the board goals.
 - ✓ High Standard of Cleanliness and Compliance with Pandemic Guidelines
 - ★ Custodial Staff & Equipment, Sterilization
 - ★ Protocols, Social Distancing, Hand Hygiene, Masks
 - ★ Why the Staggered Schedule is Saving Us
 - ★ Covid-19 School Update
 - ❖ New quarantine protocol
 - ✓ Maintain and Improve Mental Health and Safety of Students and Staff
 - ★ Teacher Self-Care
 - ★ Qualified Mental Health Grant
 - ★ Finding Joy
 - ❖ Express gratitude
 - ✓ Continue Improvement of Literacy Instruction and Outcomes
 - ★ Reading Endorsement:
 - ❖ Student Field Experience
 - ★ Acadience Reading Assessment
 - ✓ Highlighting a Current Strength:
 - ★ Observation Week – visiting all teachers and giving feedback
 - ★ High Quality Instruction Throughout the School
 - ✓ Highlighting a Current Challenge:
 - ★ No Assessment Data from Spring 2020 due to Covid-19
 - ★ New Literacy Data: Decrease in Literacy Proficiency Subsequent to Covid-19 Closure
- ✓ Discussion on how the online attendance is going

➤ Board of Directors

- Financial Review – Andrew Marx reviewed the balance sheet and P&L as of September 30, 2020. There was a discussion on supplies using CARES funding. Cathie explained that it should be used for COVID items that we didn't originally budget for because of COVID. There are deadlines attached to the funding.

BOARD TRAINING

- Annual Open & Public Meeting Act Training – Brandon Fairbanks started with the declaration of the policy behind the Act. He started with the question, “What constitutes a meeting under the act?” 1) You must have a quorum (certain number of board members present); and 2) You are exchanging information in which you have jurisdiction to act (you are discussing school business and taking action). Brandon discussed the gray areas to give the board members clarification. He reviewed how GRAMA requests work and the steps that the school must go through when there is such a request. Brandon reviewed the places

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that it is required to notify a meeting at least 24 hours in advance to 1) place of meeting location; 2) Public Notice Website (PNW) which is controlled and maintained by the state and anyone can subscribe to; and 3) provide notice to at least one newspaper of general circulation within the geographic jurisdiction. However, this is set up on the PNW to automatically be sent to local the newspaper. All meetings must be conducted in the public but this does not mean that the public participates in the meeting. The exception to that is a closed meeting. There are a few reasons for closed meeting but the school has typically only used two which are discussing a person's character and real estate land exchange. All closed sessions are required to be recorded except for the discussion of a person's character. The requirements to enter into a closed meeting are 1) you must state the statutory purpose of the closed meeting (it has to be one of the required items); 2) roll call; 3) the time; and 4) the location of where the closed session occurred. You would treat it like its own little meeting. Brandon reviewed the requirements of records regarding minutes and recordings. There was a discussion on what are the consequences and what do you do to correct an error.

CONSENT ITEMS

- October 5, 2020 Electronic Board Meeting Minutes – There was no further discussion. **Andrew Marx made a motion to approve the October 5, 2020 Electronic Board Meeting minutes. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

BUSINESS ITEMS (To Be Discuss and/or Voted On)

- Discuss & Vote on Snow Removal Rate Sheet – Angie Johnson stated that they have been using Prime Design for snow removal since 2014 and they haven't increased their rates. We also received two other bids to make sure that we were still getting the best deal. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve Prime Design's 2020-2021 service agreement and authorize the Director to sign on behalf of the school. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Discuss & Vote on SLT Council Membership & Election Procedure – Brandon Fairbanks stated that these are the election procedures for the School LAND committee because the board oversees this committee. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the SLT Council Membership & Election Procedure. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Discuss & Vote Sex Ed Instruction Curriculum & Maturation Education Program – Angie Johnson stated that the board is required to approve the sex ed instruction material. This committee is also the SLT Committee. We have a great committee this year that is very diverse with a wide range from liberal to conservative. The committee wanted to offer all state approved available topics which parents can opt out of every topic. **Nelson Altamirano made a motion approve the Sex Ed Instruction Curriculum & Maturation Education Program as presented. Steve Barnes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

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- *Discuss & Vote on Time & Effort Documentation Policy* – Cathie Hurst stated that this is a new policy but it’s something that the school has been doing. It is now just in a policy. She reviewed the policy and how each of the funding sources for employees working in the programs that they say they are working in. **Andrew Marx made a motion to approve the Time & Effort Documentation Policy. Steve Barnes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- *Discuss & Vote on Amended Attendance Policy* – Brandon Fairbanks reviewed the amended Attendance Policy. These are small technical changes. This policy must be reviewed annually. It also includes notice of truancy and referrals for habitual truancy. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the amended Attendance Policy. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- *Discuss & Vote on Amended Bullying & Hazing Policy* – Brandon Fairbanks reviewed the Bullying and Hazing Policy. This includes clarifying the rule of bullying and addresses the required training. **Andrew Marx made a motion to approve the amended Bullying & Hazing Policy. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- *Discuss & Vote on Amended Home School Student Participation in Schoolwide Assessment Policy* – Angie Johnson stated that we are taking out the word UPASS and replacing it with “statewide assessments”. **Andrew Marx made a motion to approve the amended Home School Student Participation in Schoolwide Assessment Policy. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

- Calendaring – ALL
 - Next Pre-Board Meeting – November 18th @ 5:00 p.m.
 - Next Board Meeting (Electronic) – November 30th
- REMINDER: Online Introductory Training for School Board Members

7:50 PM – Steve Barnes made a motion to enter into a CLOSED SESSION to discuss an individual’s character, professional competence, or physical or mental health pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205(1) (a) in the library. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:

**Steve Barnes – Aye
 Nelson Altamirano – Aye
 Andrew Marx – Aye
 Lois Bobo – Aye**

Motion passed unanimously.

8:03 PM – Lois Bobo made a motion to exit the CLOSED SESSION and ADJOURN. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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