

# Mountain West Montessori Academy

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Monday, February 27, 2023

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



**In Attendance:** Corbin White (via Zoom), Andrew Marx (via Zoom), Nelson Altamirano (via Zoom)

**Excused:** Steve Barnes, Lois Bobo

**Others in Attendance:** Cathie Hurst (via Zoom), Dawn Kawaguchi (via Zoom), Angie Johnson (via Zoom), Brandon Fairbanks (via Zoom)

*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

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### 2022-2023 BOARD PRIORITIES

Continue with the Computer Science Trajectory  
Celebrate Teacher Excellence  
Positive Community Communication

### 5:35 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Call to Order – Corbin White
- School Mission – Corbin
- Montessori Mastery – Postponed to the April meeting

There was no **PUBLIC COMMENT**. This was the second public comment period for the 2023-2024 School Fee Schedule and the Fee Waiver Policy.

There was no need for a **CLOSED SESSION**.

### REPORTS

- **Principal**
  - State of the School – Angie Johnson reviewed the 22-23 board priorities as follows:
    - ✓ **Celebrating Teacher Excellence** – Angie updated the board on the ongoing activities, perks, collaborations, celebrations, and overall teacher fitness, well-being and self-care. We have an upcoming professional development at the American Montessori Society Conference in Boston March 15-19.
    - ✓ **Positive Community Communication** – The current focus here is the Positive Behavior Plan. Angie reviewed the current plan and how it incorporates positive community communication. Angie also reviewed the

current 22-23 School LAND Trust (SLT) Plan expenditures which will all be spent by the end of the year. She also presented the proposed 23-24 SLT Plan which has been approved by the SLT committee and is on the agenda to be approved tonight. The total allocated funding for 2023-2024 is \$66,660.

★ **Goal #1:** Increase literacy proficiency in grades K-6 (\$38,659.81)

★ **Goal #2:** Increase math proficiency in grades 3-9 (\$28,000)

To achieve these goals, we will maintain and/or increase staffing to support interventions for students who need extra intervention outside of classroom instruction. We will provide professional development for teachers including teacher training, Montessori training and mentoring, and conferences. We will maintain support staff for pull-out groups to support mathematics interventions as well as increasing student access to computer science instruction and resources to reinforce math and critical thinking skills.

- ✓ **Continued Computer Science Initiative** – Last week we had two virtual learning days due to snow. Mr. Alden wanted to do a remote coding class which was so well attended that he needed another teacher to help him with the classes.

Angie also highlighted a current strength which has been our teacher book study book on Getting Things Done by David Allen and a current challenge has been SpEd department staffing.

➤ **Board of Directors**

- **Financial Update** – Andrew Marx reviewed the financials as of January 31<sup>st</sup>. with the position that we are in, we don't see a large amount of change month to month. He followed Ms. Angie's report and highlighted a current challenge which is a few line items that are close or over 100% but we don't expect to have additional payments in these areas but it's something we may need to increase the budget for moving forward. A current strength which is that our revenue from local sources is up (currently 80%) due to the extra interest that we have received from the PTIF. Great job to Ms. Angie and Cathie moving the extra money to the PTIF to gain extra funding for the school.

## BOARD TRAINING

- **School LAND Trust Board Training** – Brandon Fairbanks went over the annual SLT board training. He gave background the land trust and how it was created and managed through SITLA. He reviewed the SLT counsel, their make-up and their duties. Brandon reviewed the board's duties on making sure that the plan meets the requirements. The plan must be specific, measurable, obtainable, and student centered. The money allocated must be for academic purposes and tied to academic goals. There was a discussion on who is on the committee and where the required items are published. [NOTE: Steve Barnes was sent a YouTube training video.]

## VOTING ITEMS

- **Appoint New Board Member** – There were no board interviews held. We have moved this to our April Board Meeting.

- Appoint Charter School Board Building Officer – Angie Johnson stated that the school must have a CSBBO and it has been Dan Galli. Because we are in the process of construction, we need to appoint a new CSBBO. Angie has volunteered to do that since she is in the thick of it. Brandon recommended that the board approve the School Director so that we don't have to come back and reapprove a new person every time there is a change in the Director.
- Landscaping Maintenance Agreement – Angie Johnson stated that Prime Design has been doing their landscaping and snow removal. We have already approve the snow removal earlier this year. This year for landscaping, Angie did an in-depth review of the bids. She was able to do some negotiating since Prime Design wasn't the lowest bid. Prime Design were able to make some adjustments to their bid. Angie stated that they have always done a good job and she can count on them to do what is asked so since they adjusted their pricing to come in line, Angie would recommend staying with Prime Design.
- 2023-2024 School LAND Trust Plan – There was no further discussion. See the Director's Report for the discussion.
- 2023-2024 School Fee Schedule – Angie Johnson reviewed the 2023-2024 School fee schedule. There is not much change from last year. It has been up for two public comment periods per the requirement. She hasn't heard any feedback on it from parents. Angie also mentioned that they were able to decrease some of their fees this year. However, they are a little bit above average for this area because of middle school camp and our emphasis on field trips and going out into the community. She also mentioned that the school offers fee waivers which is also on the agenda tonight.

**Corbin White made a motion to approve the following:**

- **Appoint the School Director as the Charter School Board Building Official;**
- **Approve Prime Design's 2023 Landscaping Maintenance Agreement [authorize the Director to sign on behalf of the school];**
- **Approve the 2023-2024 School LAND Trust Plan;**
- **Approve the 2022-2023 School Fee Schedule;**

**Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

**Corbin White – Aye  
Andrew Marx – Aye  
Nelson Altamirano – Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

- January 30, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes – There was no further discussion. **Corbin White made a motion to approve the consent items. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**  
**Corbin White – Aye  
Andrew Marx – Aye  
Nelson Altamirano – Aye**  
**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **VOTING ITEMS (Continued)**

- Re-Approve Fee Waiver Policy – Brandon Fairbanks briefly reviewed the Fee Waiver Policy. This policy must be reviewed and re-approved annually in accordance with the law

and the policy to make sure that it is in compliance. There are no recommended changes. All fees are subject to a fee waiver which is what Angie discussed with the fee schedule. This ensures that every student has an equal opportunity to participate in the academic program at MWMA regardless of whether or not if they can afford it or not.

- *Selection and Purchase of Instructional Materials Policy* – Brandon Fairbanks reviewed the Selection and Purchase of Instructional Materials Policy. This is the process by which the school selects and purchases its instructional materials. It is one of the policies that the state is requiring all LEA's to have.
- *Student Transportation Policy* – Brandon Fairbanks reviewed the Student Transportation Policy. Platte has included an optional provision that Angie/board can add to the policy. There was a discussion on what this provision covers. Due to the liability, it was decided to not include the optional provision. There was a discussion on getting consent from parents before transporting any students.
- *Supervision of Students at School-Sponsored Activities Policy* – Brandon Fairbanks reviewed the Supervision of Student at School-Sponsored Activities Policy. Most of this policy is regarding the coaches but it does include any after school activity. There was a discussion on the amount of time students can wait until the school will contact the parents. Angie would like change this to 20 minutes. There was a discussion on the process of what happens if a student isn't picked up within 20 minutes.

**Andrew Marx made a motion to approve the following:**

- **Re-approve the Fee Waiver Policy;**
- **Approve the Selection and Purchase of Instructional Materials Policy;**
- **Approve the Student Transportation Policy without the optional language;**  
**and**
- **Approve the Supervision of Students at School-Sponsored Activities Policy increasing the waiting time to 20 minutes.**

**Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

**Corbin White – Aye**

**Andrew Marx – Aye**

**Nelson Altamirano – Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- **Calendaring – ALL**
  - **Next Pre-Board Meeting – April 12th @ 5:00 p.m.**
  - **Board Meeting – April 24<sup>th</sup>**

**6:35 PM – Nelson Altamirano made a motion to ADJOURN. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

**Steve Barnes – Aye**

**Corbin White – Aye**

**Andrew Marx – Aye**

**Nelson Altamirano – Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**