

Mountain West Montessori Academy
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 24, 2023

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



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

Excused: Lois Bobo

Others in Attendance: Angie Johnson, Dawn Kawaguchi, Cathie Hurst (via Zoom), Rebecca Akester (5:48 p.m.), Platte Nielson (7:19 p.m. 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

2022-2023 BOARD PRIORITIES

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

5:42 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Call to Order – Steve Barnes
- School Mission – Andrew
- Montessori Mastery – The Board walked down to the Lower El hall to view the mural on the wall. The theme was “Imagine the Possibilities”. Each class made their own planet and had a theme. All students had art on the planet and the sun’s rays were their wishes and sayings.

There was no PUBLIC COMMENT.

5:51 PM – Andrew Marx made a motion to enter a CLOSED SESSION to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205(1)(a) in the library. Steve Barnes seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows:

Steve Barnes – Aye
Andrew Marx – Aye
Nelson Altamirano – Aye
Corbin White – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

6:33 PM – Corbin White made a motion to exit the CLOSED SESSION. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:

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

Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

➤ Principal

- *State of the School* – Angie Johnson reviewed 22-23 board priorities. She highlighted how they are celebrating teacher excellence which included the Boston AMS Conference, teacher well-being and the upcoming Teacher Appreciation Week. Next, she highlighted the positive community communication which included the last newsletter, a new podcast episode with the OCD & Anxiety Treatment Center and the PTO. Last, she highlighted the continued computer science initiative including Family Code Night. The most current strength is their social media and the recent challenge is finding a way to attend the AMI Global Montessori Conference in Thailand this August.

➤ Board of Directors

- *Financial Update* – Andrew Marx reviewed the financials as of March 31st. We are very inline of where we should be this time of year. Our PTIF is earning more money due to the increasing interest rates.

CONSENT ITEMS

- *April 12, 2023 Electronic Board Meeting Minutes* – There was no further discussion. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the consent items. 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.

VOTING ITEMS

- *Appoint New Board Member* – There was no further discussion. **Steve Barnes made a motion to appoint Gimenia Palmer as a board member to fulfill the remainder of Lois Bobo’s term ending June 2024 and appoint Sheri Ebert as a board member starting June 1, 2023 with a 3-year term ending June 2026. 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.

Steve Barnes thanked both Gimenia and Sheri for their willingness to serve. He also thanked Lois Bobo for her years of service.

- Amend Employee 401(k) Plan – Angie Johnson stated that she would like to increase the 401(k) match from 3% to 4% and move to a Safe Harbor plan which allows 100% vesting once you are able to contribute. This plan has a 1-year wait period. Angie stated that they have always have a 1-year wait period. There was a discussion on an URS option vs. 401(k) and a discussion on the wait period, contribution and vesting on this plan. Dawn has texted Priscilla to see if she can answer some questions for Steve. Steve asked Angie to move on the agenda and review the next item.
- 2023-2024 TSSA Plan – Angie Johnson reviewed the 2023-2024 Teacher and Student Success Act Plan. The goals align with the SLT goals. This plan is essentially the same as the current year. **Andrew Marx made a motion to approve the proposed 2023-2024 Teacher and Student Success Act Plan. Corbin White seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

Steve Barnes – Aye
Corbin White – Aye
Andrew Marx – Aye
Nelson Altamirano – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

We didn't hear from Priscilla. Dawn stated that these changes need to be approved by October 1st, so we have time. The changes don't go into effect until January 2024. Angie will talk with Priscilla about it later. Steve would like to Angie to do what is best to retain teachers.

Steve Barnes made a motion to approve a Safe Harbor plan with a match of 4%, 100% vesting schedule, 1 year wait period, and allow the Board President to sign on behalf of the school. 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.

- Assessment of Student Achievement Policy – Platte Nielson joined the meeting at 7:19 p.m. to review the policies in place of Brandon Fairbanks. Platte reviewed the Assessment of Student Achievement Policy which covers how the School measures student achievement through statewide assessment, the rules of statewide assessments, student participation, students with IEP and how students can exempt from the statewide assessments.
- Rescind Test Administration Policy – Platte Nielson stated that this policy is similar to the previous policy and he is recommending to rescind the Test Administration Policy.
- Dropout Prevention and Recovery Policy – Platte Nielson reviewed the Dropout and Prevention and Recovery Policy. The school is required to offer services to help any 9th grade dropout students.
- Language Access Policy – Platte Nielson reviewed the Language Access Policy. Angie reviewed some of the things that the School does for the ELL students.
- Public Education Materials Development Policy – Platte Nielson reviewed the Public Education Materials Development Policy. Governs how a curriculum/materials created by

teachers on School time and funds are shared with a 3rd party including licensing. Angie added that she's encouraged her teachers to do this on their own time.

Nelson Altamirano made a motion to approve the following policies:

- **Approve the Assessment of Student Achievement Policy;**
- **Rescind the Test Administration Policy;**
- **Approve the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Policy;**
- **Approve the Language Access Policy; and**
- **Approve the Public Education Materials Development Policy.**

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.

Platte Nielson was excused at 7:33 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

➤ **Calendaring – ALL**

- Next Pre-Board Meeting – May 9th @ 11:45 a.m.
- Reschedule Board Meeting – May 22nd @ 5:00 p.m. [Strategic Planning] – Moved to Tuesday, May 16th. Dawn will send an updated calendar invite.

7:40 PM – Andrew Marx made a motion to ADJOURN. The votes were as follows:

Steve Barnes – Aye
Corbin White – Aye
Andrew Marx – Aye
Nelson Altamirano – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mountain West Montessori Academy

Board of Directors

Closed Session Statement

Monday, April 24, 2023

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



CLOSED SESSION SWORN STATEMENT:

*At a duly noticed public meeting held on the date listed above, the board of directors for **MOUNTAIN WEST MONTESSORI ACADEMY** entered into a closed session for the sole purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual in accordance with Utah Code Ann. 52-4-2(1)(a).*

I declare under criminal penalty under the law of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on the 24th day of April, 2023.



Steve Barnes

Board Chair