

Mountain West Montessori Academy

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 26, 2019

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, Lois Bobo, Corbin White

Excused: Nelson Altamirano, Andrew Marx

Others in Attendance: Brandon Fairbanks, Sheri Ebert, Cathie Hurst, Dawn Kawaguchi, Marianne Noble, Kari Schein, David Robertson (6:20 p.m.)

*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

2019-2020 BOARD PRIORITIES

Professional Development for Trauma Informed School
Improve Student Physical Health
Expand Literacy Pedagogy

6:10 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- *Call to Order* – Steve Barnes
- *School Mission* – Corbin
- *Montessori Minute* – Kari Schein first thanked the board for their hard work and support. Kari, Ms. Angie and Ms. Alicia recently did a podcast on mindfulness last Tuesday. This is something that we are finding that all of us are attracted to in the teaching profession. They have been working on mindfulness with the students through literature, mindfulness activities and other different things. They wanted to do something for the parents because there have been misconceptions on what mindfulness is. She gave examples what mindfulness isn't and what it really is. Marie Montessori built mindfulness into her curriculum. Breathing is an important part of mindfulness. Kari shared that Ms. Angie has gotten the school's podcast on all four podcast markets.

There was no PUBLIC COMMENT.

REPORTS

- **Counselor**
 - *Comprehensive Guidance* – Marianne Noble is the school counselor. She is trying to do a data project yearly. Last year she conducted a data project on attendance

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and how it corresponded with their grades for middle school students. This generated procedures on how to handle chronic absences and they put interventions in place. The data shows that after the second semester attendance went down – not a lot but it still went down. They are continuing to work on attendance this year as well. This year’s data project is to work on 7-9 Latino students. Sheri asked Marianne to share information on attendance school which is held on Fridays. Lois wanted to mention that this information is significant because the attendance typically gets worse in the third and fourth terms. Marianne also reviewed how she has worked to decrease the tardies in the school.

➤ **Financial Advisor – LYRB**

- *Bonding Update* – David Robertson thanked the board for hiring him as the school financial advisor. He wanted to go through the different options that the school has and understand the school’s long-term needs. He reviewed public offered bonds, direct placement bonds, and bank placement. He also mentioned the state credit enhancement program. David went through the other major parties that need to be engaged to go through the bonding. They are the borrower’s counsel, bond counsel, underwriter, trustee and other. David asked who his main point of contact with the school will be. Angie and Cathie will be the main point of contact with Corbin and Nelson are on the committee. David went through a timeline of how the bonding will go. He had a due diligence check list. One of the items that he discussed was continuing disclosure. A quick process will be about 3-4 month, but he would like to move this along because the interest rates are so good. There was a discussion about scheduling a September electronic board meeting to engage these other parties. There was a discussion on delegating the authority to the finance committee to bring their recommendations to the board. The board would like to schedule an electronic meeting board meeting on September 23rd @ 6 p.m. David will also be sending the board three policies to consider. *David Robertson was excused at 7:13 p.m.*

➤ **Director**

- *State of the School* – Sheri Ebert reviewed the new board priorities for the school year. There are the following:
 - ✓ Professional Development for Trauma Informed School
 - ★ Last Year we had a book study with teachers. We read “The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog”.
 - ★ Angie and Sheri are focusing on “Lost & Found” by Dr. Ross Green
 - ★ Our approach with professional development
 - ⌘ Safe and welcoming culture
 - ⌘ Routines and predictability
 - ⌘ Focusing on anti-bullying and suicide prevention
 - ⌘ Balanced restored injustice (approach to conflict resolution)
 - ⌘ Appropriate disciplinary action if needed
 - ⌘ Collaborative problem solving with student and parent

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- ★ Some of the things we are already doing are mindfulness, peace table, classroom community meeting, sensory breaks, student choice, and trusting relationships with teachers and staff members.
 - ✓ Improve Student Physical Health
 - ★ We now have four square (nine square is coming – Eagle Scout project by former student)
 - ★ Chef Rick
 - ★ Creating a Physical Health committee
 - ✓ Expand Literacy Pedagogy
 - ★ Reading endorsement to be offered at MWMA by Sheri. Teachers will be receiving credit and there will be partial tuition offered through professional development. It will take about two years to complete the course.
 - ✓ New middle school teachers to replace Ms. Katie: Professor Doughnut for CTE and Ms. Jenna in geography, world cuisine and hula.
 - ✓ Amended Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting ADMIN Procedures
 - ✓ Amended Electronic Resources ADMIN Procedures
- **Board of Directors**
- *Financial Review* – Cathie Hurst reported that there is only one month of finances so there is not much to report. We are still in the middle of the audit process and it is going well. Cathie reviewed the financial profit and loss through July 31st.

Lois Bobo made a motion to approve the CONSENT ITEMS. Corbin White seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve June 14, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

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

- *Discuss & Vote on Amended SpEd Policies & Procedures Manual* – Sheri Ebert stated that in the past the school has used the discrepancy model for Specific Learning Disabilities. The state is replacing that with a combination model. This is a combination of using the discrepancy model and response to intervention model (RTI). Sheri reviewed the process of the RTI team (*Angie, Sheri, SpEd director, coach, assessment director*).
- *Discuss & Vote on Amended Sexual Abuse & Molestation Prevention Policy* – Brandon Fairbanks reviewed the amended Sexual Abuse & Molestation Prevention Policy. This policy is updated due to revisions in the law which is the addition to the awareness of sex trafficking to be included in training for staff.
- *Discuss & Vote on Amended Staff Code of Conduct Policy* – Brandon Fairbanks stated that this policy is required for governmental immunity. He reviewed the amended Staff Code of Conduct Policy. There is also a staff member acknowledgement form that staff must sign once training is done. **Corbin White made a motion to approve the amended Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual; the amended Staff Code of Conduct Policy and the amended Sexual Abuse and Molestation Prevention Policy. Steve Barnes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

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OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

➤ **Calendaring – ALL**

- Schedule an Electronic Board Meeting – September 23rd @ 6:00 p.m. – Dawn will send out invite to the board and include David Robertson.
- October Pre-Board Meeting – October 9th @ 5 p.m.
- Next Board Meeting – October 21st
- National Charter School Convention – June 21-24 in Orlando

7:53 PM – Corbin White made a motion to ADJOURN. Lois Bobo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. (Duration 1:43:14)

Action Items

1. Add a closed session to the September Board Meeting per Steve – **Dawn**

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