

# Mountain West Montessori Academy

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Monday, November 25, 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, Nelson Altamirano, Lois Bobo, Corbin White, Andrew Marx (via phone; 7:13 p.m.)

**Others in Attendance:** Brandon Fairbanks, Angie Johnson, Gabe Clark, Cathie Hurst, Dawn Kawaguchi, David Robertson

*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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### **2019-2020 BOARD PRIORITIES**

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

### **6:50 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

- Call to Order – Steve Barnes
- School Mission – Steve
- *Montessori Minute* – Angie played a few excerpts from the school podcast “Do You See?” Episode 16 “Those Can-Do Pigs”. Nelson stated that he has been listening to the podcasts. He said that they have very good content and he has been listening to them with his children. Nelson would like to find ways to get the word out that these are not just friends talking but they are very educational. Angie stated that she has been using the podcasts as a reference for parents.

### **REPORTS**

- **Financial Advisor**
  - *Update on Building Finance* – David Robertson updated the board on the current status of the building financing. David, Angie and Cathie met with the Utah State Financing Authority this month and they have had a positive turn of events where they may be able to get an enhanced rating through the financing authority. David feels like it is worth taking a month to explore this possibility. There will be an additional application that will need to be submitted to the financing authority. We have also reached out the SCSB because they have to submit a certification that the

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school is in good operating order and in compliance with their charter. David gave a timeline of the next steps in this process. He will work with Angie, Cathie, Gabe and others to collect the information, submit the application, work with the SCSB and if the stars align then they will have to be approved by the SCSB at December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The finance authority has scheduled their meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup> and has asked if Angie and Cathie can call into this meeting to answer any questions. David is hoping to get small school exception with the finance authority but there are no guarantees. If we do get the exception, we will get a bond rating and hope to be selling bonds in January and close by the first of February. There was a discussion on bond ratings and what the process would be if they did not get the financing authorities approval. There was a discussion on the financing authority's new small school exception. There was a discussion on how much more it would save if the board were to receive the financing authority's exception. David stated that there isn't any board action required but he just wanted to make sure that there weren't any board issues with taking the extra time to explore this option.

*Andrew Marx entered the meeting in person at 7:13 p.m. David Robertson was excused at 7:17 p.m.*

➤ **Director**

- *State of the School* – Angie Johnson reviewed the board priorities for the current school year.
  - ✓ Professional Development for Trauma-Informed Practice
    - ★ Receiving Grants for mental health and elementary counselor
    - ★ USBE has developed Trauma-Informed Professional Learning Modules
    - ★ Currently working on Part 3 of Teacher Professional Development for Trauma-Informed Practice which is “Foundations” working on strategies to address and deal with students that have had trauma, or we suspect may have had trauma
    - ★ Prevalence of child sexual abuse in Utah is staggering (#1 in the nation)
  - ✓ Improve Student Physical Health
    - ★ Four Square courts
    - ★ New Nine Square in the Air
    - ★ Nutrition & Cooking (third grade pilot)
      - ❖ Brain Balls
    - ★ Middle School “Kiva Talks”
      - ❖ Body Image
      - ❖ Anti-Vaping
      - ❖ Sleep
      - ❖ Managing Stress

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- ✓ Expand Literacy Pedagogy (**Top 2 Areas:** *reading endorsement for teachers and dedicated monthly data meetings for evaluation of individual student reading data*)
  - ★ Reading Endorsement through SUU
  - ★ First Course:
    - ❖ Foundations of Literacy Instruction: Theories & Models (Sept to Dec 2019)
    - ❖ Cost to teachers is \$219
  - ★ Dedicated Monthly Data Meeting for evaluation of individual student reading data
- ✓ Highlighting a Current Strength – Podcast for Fluency
- ✓ Highlighting a Recent Challenge – Teacher Compensation

➤ **Board of Directors**

- *Financial Review* – Andrew reviewed the finances as of October 31st. Everything looks good and we are where we should be at this time. Andrew stated that there are a few areas that are higher at this point in time under “Other Professional Services” and “Business Services”. Cathie added that we are aware of those areas and know why they higher. Andrew also stated that they liability and property insurance are paid once a year. All other areas of concern have been discussed in previous meetings. Andrew asked Cathie to speak on the “Travel/Per Diem”. Cathie stated that this is a state thing. The school must now expense conference costs here if it is out of state. It used to be recorded under “Professional Employee Training & Development”. This will be fixed at the end of the year when the budget is amended. Steve asked if the loss of the church rental income has impacted the budget. Angie and Cathie were happy to report that it has not. In fact, Angie stated that they have moved \$250k from the operating account into the PTIF account to gain interest.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – *This was the first public comment period held for the 2020-2021 fee schedule and amended Fee Waiver Policy.*

- Jen Evans made a comment regarding the school fee schedule. She would like to make sure that they are high enough so that the students can have enough money to travel.
- Angie Johnson reviewed the new school fee schedule format. She also stated that the new rule states that the fee schedule must be held for public comment during two board meetings before it can be approved. Angie sent out an email to inform the parents of the fee schedule being held for public comment. Families can apply for fee waivers because all fees are waivable.

**BOARD TRAINING**

➤ **Policy Review**

- *Student Conduct and Discipline Policy* – The board reviewed its Student Conduct and Discipline Policy and corresponding administrative plan. A significant part of this policy relates to the legal requirements for expulsion, suspension and change

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of placement. Additional provisions of the policy and procedure address legal requirements in areas such as possession of weapons, controlled substances, searches and seizures. Gabe noted that students have constitutional right to attend school to be educated, and to deprive a student from that right, due process is required. This policy replaced the Safe Schools Policy in 2017 and was updated to include bullying and hazing as well as physical restraint. The board discussed the administrative procedures, classroom discipline, MWMA's philosophy, student outcomes and alternatives to suspension and expulsion.

**Lois Bobo made a motion to approve the CONSENT ITEMS. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Approve September 23, 2019 Closed Session Affidavit
- Approve October 24, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes
- Approve October 24, 2019 Closed Session Affidavit

#### **OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS**

- Calendaring – ALL
  - Holiday Social – December 2<sup>nd</sup> @ Market Street Grill in Cottonwood @ 6 p.m.
  - February Pre-Board Meeting – February 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5 p.m.
  - Next Board Meeting – February 24<sup>th</sup> [Winter Retreat]
  - National Charter School Convention – June 21-24 in Orlando

**8:08 PM – Corbin White 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) located in the library. Lois Bobo seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

*Lois Bobo was excused at 8:30 p.m.*

**8:57 PM – Andrew Marx made a motion to exit the CLOSED SESSION and ADJOURN. Corbin White seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

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