

Mountain West Montessori Academy

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 24, 2022

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



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

Excused: Corbin White

Others in Attendance: Angie Johnson, Sheri Ebert, Dawn Kawaguchi, Brandon Fairbanks, Cathie Hurst (via Zoom), Alden Thorpe (via Zoom), Ken Jeppesen (6:51 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

2021-2022 BOARD PRIORITIES

Safely Re-Engage in Hands-On & Experiential Learning Experiences
Implement Computer Science Initiative
Continue Improvement of Literacy Instruction & Outcomes

6:04 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Call to Order – Steve Barnes
- School Mission – Andrew
- Montessori Mastery – Mr. Alden gave a computer science update including weekly elementary classroom visits in which he works with the teachers on current lessons to incorporate state computer science standards such as coding, sequencing, problem solving, and digital literacy skills into their lessons. Part of the computer science grant states that he will give frequent updates to the board and solicit feedback. The middle school offers Python and Creative Coding. We are also partnering with Hale Center Theatre. They will be having a STEM/computer science assembly in which they will show how they use computer science backstage and onstage to make their production work. Mr. Alden would like to get teachers trained to point where they can integrate computer science into their everyday teaching. They are also building their computer science library. There was a discussion on digital citizenship and the effects of too much computer time including gaming and social media.

There was no PUBLIC COMMENT. This was the first public comment period for the 2022-2023 School Fee Schedule and Fee Waiver Policy. Angie briefly reviewed the school fee schedule and the Fee Waiver Policy. The general middle school fees have been reduced from the current year.

Lois Bobo was excused at 6:36 p.m. Alden Thorpe was excused at the 6:38 p.m.

REPORTS

➤ Director

- State of the School – Angie Johnson reviewed the current years board goals & priorities and gave updates on the following:
 - ✓ Safely Re-Engage in Hand-on and Experiential Learning Activities
 - ★ COVID updates
 - ♣ Parental concerns
 - ♣ Mask exemptions
 - ♣ Test to Stay and Online Learning

➤ Audit

- FY21 Audit Review – Ken Jeppesen reviewed the standard board letter which includes the transition from FASB to GASB, audit according to government standards (GAS), reiterates their independence, audit adjustments (there weren't any), and difficulties with management (everyone was great to work with). They issued three opinions and all three opinions were unmodified (clean report). The first report is the financials (the numbers) which was a clean report. Ken reviewed the financial statement which included Statement of Net Position; Statement of Activities; Balance Sheet; Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds; and the (8) Notes to the Financials Statements. The second report is the required supplementary information which they review the policies and procedures to make sure that they are being followed. This was also a clean report. The third and last report is the compliance reports which the state requires them to test internal controls on specific areas that they choose such as the Fraud Risk Assessment, school fees, TSSA, and special education funding. This was also a clean report. *Ken Jeppesen was excused at 7:15 p.m.*

➤ Director (Continued)

- State of the School – Continued...
 - ✓ Implement Computer Science Initiative
 - ★ Alden's update
 - ★ Visit from the State
 - ✓ Continue Improvement of Literacy Instruction and Outcomes
 - ★ Reading endorsement
 - ♣ Last course!
 - ♣ *K-12 Literacy Practices and Processes: Instructional Implications*
 - ★ MOY Acadience reading assessment in progress
 - ✓ Highlighting a Current Strength
 - ★ Educational Perseverance
 - ✓ Highlighting a Current Challenge
 - ★ Civil discourse and balancing students and parent rights
 - ✓ Equipment Acquired with Federal Funds Admin Procedures

➤ Board of Directors

- Financial Update – Andrew Marx stated that we had a wonderful audit. He stated that we are on track where we should be. Areas where we are high are the one-time

payments and they will level out by the end of the year. There are no concerns and we as a school are in a great position.

CONSENT ITEMS

- October 25, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes – There was no further discussion. **Andrew Marx made a motion to approve the consent items. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**
 - Steve Barnes – Aye
 - Andrew Marx – Aye
 - Nelson Altamirano – Aye**Motion passed unanimously.**

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

- 2022-2023 School Calendar – Angie Johnson reviewed the 2022-2023 school calendar. It is close to this year’s calendar. She reviewed the major breaks and compared them to JSD. Their professional development days are for the National Montessori Conference in Nashville. This calendar follows closely with JSD. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**
 - Steve Barnes – Aye
 - Andrew Marx – Aye
 - Nelson Altamirano – Aye**Motion passed unanimously.**
- Amended Budgeting Policy – Cathie Hurst reviewed the amended Budget Policy. This policy includes the maintenance of effort for Title I. **Andrew Marx made a motion to approve the amended Budgeting Policy. Steve Barnes seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**
 - Steve Barnes – Aye
 - Andrew Marx – Aye
 - Nelson Altamirano – Aye**Motion passed unanimously.**
- Amended Parent Compact – Angie Johnson reviewed the amended Parent Compact. There cannot be any number to volunteer hours and you cannot request or recommend hours. **Nelson Altamirano made a motion to approve the amended Parent Compact. Steve Barnes seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**
 - Steve Barnes – Aye
 - Andrew Marx – Aye
 - Nelson Altamirano – Aye**Motion passed unanimously.**
- LEA-Specific Educator Licenses – Angie Johnson stated that they have two teachers who will be out for surgery/maternity. We hired Deanna Ybarra for a long-term sub. Deanna has an out of state license and we don’t know when she will get her Utah license, so we are requesting a LEA-Specific license. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the request for an MWMA-specific educator licenses for the following: Deanna Ybarra for an elementary license; for a period of three years. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- **401(k) Contract** – Brandon Fairbanks reviewed the third-party 401k administration agreement that is required to be reviewed and re-approved every sixth year by the board. He stated that upon re-approving there is a \$200 administration fee. There are no changes to the agreement itself. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the 401(k) Contract and allow the Board President sign on behalf of the School. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

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

Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

- **Calendaring** – ALL
- Schedule Post Holiday Social – will look at doing this at a later date.
 - Next Pre-Board Meeting – March 15th @ 5:00 p.m.
 - Next Board Meeting – March 28th

7:46 PM – Andrew Marx made a motion to ADJOURN.