



Mountain West Montessori Academy

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Location: MWMA Library, 4125 W. Foxview Drive, South Jordan, UT 84095

In Attendance: Dan Galli, Linda Hume, Andrew Marx, Ryan Parker, Steve Barnes (5:49 p.m.)

Others in Attendance: Amy Pilkington, Shirley Atkinson, Kara Finley, Angie Johnson, Brandon Fairbanks, Laura Pelcastre, Nicole Hansen, Rebecca Ulibarri, Ryan Arrington (5:57 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

2014-2015 BOARD PRIORITIES

Montessori

Operational/Financial stability

Creating community/vested

5:43 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Call to Order by Dan Galli
- School Mission was read by Linda Hume.
- *Montessori Minute* – Amy Pilkington reviewed the philosophy on mastery to show student proficiency versus assigning grades to student learning. Families receive progress reports at parent teacher conferences and the reports cover curriculum and behavior. Teachers are also able to indicate reading levels and why mastery has not yet been reached.

Steve Barnes arrived at 5:49 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Laura Pelcastre** – Has a daughter in lower elementary and has concerns regarding communication. She would like more information available regarding Board Members, Board openings, and public postings. She would also ask that a directory of teachers be posted to the website.
- **Nicole Hansen** – She worries that the length of lunchtime does not allow students enough time to eat their meals after going through the long lunch line. She would like additional notice regarding Dress Down Days. She feels as though the dress code standard should be enforced across the board if there is going to be a dress code.
- **Rebecca Ulibarri** – She requests the school consider flipping the lunch to allow students additional time to eat prior to going out to recess. She also doesn't like the dress code and feels as though it should be changed to a modesty dress code but not restrict student choice. She would like to see additional information posted to the website, including teacher bios.

- **Jamie Treseder** – She has been impressed by the school and how well it has gone. She feels as though a 1:05 PM lunch is too late for a first grader and that the lunch line is too long. She likes the mixed-age classrooms and would like the availability for older students to help the younger students more.

Ryan Arrington arrived at 5:57 PM.

REPORTS

➤ **Director Report**

- Amy Pilkington reviewed the state of the school, including summer trainings for teachers and professional development. They are looking at growth for next year for students, teachers, and additional materials being purchased. The Pi Day fundraiser went well, state assessments will be in mid-March, enrollment is full with a significant waiting list, and Parent Teacher Conferences are underway. The teachers' intent-to-returns have been returned and teacher recruitment is underway for the 2015-2016 school year.

➤ **Board of Directors**

- The Board discussed the administrative and governing items based on the public comment and having the administrative team review those comments and if applicable discuss it at an upcoming Board Meeting.
- Update on Action Items – Dan Galli reviewed the current action items. The letter to Rusty Bentley was completed, the Board has completed a review of member expectations, Brandon Fairbanks will work with the Board Members needing background checks, and Board Members needing bios will email them to Dawn.
- Review 2014-2015 Budget as of February 28, 2015 – Linda Hume reviewed the budgets including the additional Title funds received and the additional surplus. The local funding sources were discussed as well as the free-and-reduced eligibility numbers. There were a higher number of parents reporting free-and-reduced than actually signed up. The accounting team and the process to track revenues, expenses, and surplus were considered along with the need to have surplus to meet the required cash-on-hand ratio. The schools budget runs from July 1 to June 30 and is reviewed and voted on at the annual Board Meeting.
- Update on Board Vacancies – Dan Galli discussed the possibility of adding an additional Board Member. The Board is creating an announcement and a committee was formed composed of Dan Galli, Linda Hume, and Brandon Fairbanks to advertise, gather, and interview interested candidates.

CONSENT ITEMS

- Approve February 19, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Affidavit – The Board reviewed the minutes and had no changes. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the February 19, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Affidavit; Linda Hume seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Discuss and Vote on Amended 2015-2016 School Calendar – Amy Pilkington reviewed the changes to the calendar, including the start dates, breaks, and school release. The

start date for Kindergarten is a week later to allow for student orientations and interviews. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the Amended 2015-2016 School Calendar as discussed; Andrew Marx seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Discuss and Vote on 2015-2016 School LAND Trust Plan – Amy Pilkington reviewed the proposed plan with the School LAND Trust funds and would like to purchase additional technology through projectors, personal computing devices, and reading/research libraries. **Linda Hume made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 School LAND Trust Plan; Ryan Parker seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Discuss and Vote on Amended 2014-2015 Budget – Linda Hume reviewed the additional Title funds that have been received and the need to amend the budget to incorporate those funds. The addition restricted funds changes the expenses to the unrestricted funds, which allows for a greater surplus. **Andrew Marx made a motion to approve the Amended 2014-2015 Budget; Ryan Parker seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

- Calendaring
 - April Pre-Board Meeting – April 21st
 - Next Board Meeting – April 28th
 - UAPCS Conference – June 15-16 *Utah County Convention Center*
 - ✓ Early Bird Registration deadline May 15th

Steve Barnes made a motion to ADJOURN the Board Meeting; Ryan Parker seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Board Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM. (Duration 1:05:15)

MARCH ACTION ITEMS

Summer Retreat agenda:

- Plan to purchase building

Dawn

- Email board to see who wants to attend UAPCS Conferences
- Invite Ryan Parker to the Pre-Board Meeting to be the finance person
- Schedule electronic meeting to approve Redwoods Trip costs