

Mountain West Montessori Academy

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 24, 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 (via phone), Corbin White, Andrew Marx (via phone)

Excused: Lois Bobo, Nelson Altamirano

Others in Attendance: Angie Johnston, Dawn Kawaguchi, Gabe Clark, Brandon Johnson, David Robertson (6:08 p.m. via phone), Sheri Ebert (6:16 p.m. via phone), Cathie Hurst (6:16 p.m. via phone)

*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

6:05 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Call to Order – Corbin White
- School Mission – Corbin

There was no PUBLIC COMMENT.

Corbin made a change to the agenda to

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

- *Discuss & Consider Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing a Financing to Refinance the School's Outstanding Loan Used to Purchase the School's Facility* – Brandon Johnson reviewed the financing resolution that allows the board to refinance the existing loan to get a lower interest rate along with the documents that are associate with the financing. David Robertson went through the next steps. November 19th at 9 a.m. is the meeting with the Utah Financing Authority. David would like to have a couple of representatives from the school there. David also discussed considering pursuing a rating (BB+). There was a discussion on the pros and cons of going the rating route which would cost the school \$30k-\$40K and extend the closing of the financing until February. David doesn't know if there is an advantage or disadvantage to pursuing the rating right now as opposed to moving

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forward without the rating. There was a discussion on if moving forward with the rating that it would change the cost of David's current fee due to the amount of work that would need to be done. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the financing resolution dated October 24, 2019 for the refinance of MWMA's facility and give the direction to move forward with the bond rating. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

Steve Barnes – Aye

Andrew Marx – Aye

Corbin White – Aye on the financing resolution and “No” to move forward on the bond rating.

Motion passed with a majority vote.

David Robertson and Brandon Johnson were excused at 6:57 p.m.

- *Discuss & Vote on Disclosure Policy & Procedures* – Gabe Clark reviewed the following policies for bond financing: Disclosure Policy and Procedures; Board and Administration Succession Plan; and Financial, Debt and Risk Management Plan. These policies are required by the Utah Charter Financing Authority and the investing public for the school to have these in place. The Disclosure Policy and Procedures outlines the understanding of information to be publicly available to the investors about the school which is required for publicly traded bonds. The Board and Administration Succession Plan outlines the process that will be followed that the board will continue to have high quality members with a mix of appropriate expertise which follows the current process that is being used to select board members. The process to select a director is also listed in there. The Financial, Debt and Risk Management outlines that the school will follow general financial management, that you follow general accepted accounting principles, maintain minimum reserves and coverage levels and budgeting which just documents the accounting practices that the school already follows. It also includes risk management and complying with the law. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the Disclosure Policy & Procedures, Board & Administration Succession Plan, and Financial, Debt & Risk Management Plan. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- *Discuss & Vote on Board & Administration Succession Plan* – There was no further discussion. See above for motion.
- *Discuss & Vote on Financial, Debt & Risk Management Plan* – There was no further discussion. See above for motion.
- *Discuss & Vote on “At Risk” definition for Utah Grants* – Angie Johnson stated that the Utah Grants monies are state and federal funding for Title I, Title II, Accelerated Students, At Risk Students and IDEA. Angie would like to broaden the definition of an “at-risk” students to have a little more flexibility to spend these funds. This would add a second bullet point with the following: *“Exhibits behavioral, social-emotional, or attendance concerns that impact academic achievement.”* **Andrew Marx made a motion to approve the definition of an “at-risk” student in regard to the EARS funding and the 2019-2020 Utah Grants Plan and budget. Steve Barnes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

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- *Discuss & Vote on 2019-2020 Utah Grants Plan & Budget* – There was no further discussion. See above for motion.
- *Discuss & Vote on Sex Ed & Maturation Curriculum* – Angie Johnson stated their LAND trust committee is also the Sex Education Instruction committee. This committee has chosen to use the same curriculum used last year which is the state required curriculum. Parents can opt into all topics that the state allows. There will still be opt out forms sent out to parents. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the human sexuality education curriculum as presented. Corbin White seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- *Discuss & Vote on the Club Travel Expense* – Angie Johnson reviewed the cost breakdown per person for their club travel expense to Costa Rica. She also gave an update on the board scholarships that were awarded by the committee of four half scholarships. There was a discussion on the parameters on the scholarships. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the club travel trip to Costa Rica not to exceed \$48,000. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the CONSENT ITEMS. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve August 26, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes
- Approve September 23, 2019 Electronic Board Meeting
- Ratify ETS IT Service Agreement – *While the governing board has awarded the contract to ETS, and the Service Agreement aligns with the School's RFP, the proposed agreement has been provided to the board for review as a consent item. This agreement was signed by Angie*

REPORTS

- **Board of Directors**
 - *Financial Review* – Andrew reviewed the budget as of September 30th. He made note of the liability insurance that is paid out once a year. He also mentioned that the technology related supplies were high due to the purchase of teacher laptops. There was a brief discussion on the technology software.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

- **Calendaring – ALL**
 - Do we need to schedule a November Meeting?
 - ✓ November 25th @ 6:30 p.m. and cancel electronic meeting on Dec 11th
 - Holiday Social – December 2nd @ Market Street Grill in Cottonwood
 - Electronic Board Meeting – December 11th (if needed)
 - February Pre-Board Meeting – February 12th @ 5 p.m.
 - Next Board Meeting – February 24th [Winter Retreat]
 - National Charter School Convention – June 21-24 in Orlando

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7:40 PM – Steve Barnes 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 school library. Andrew Marx seconded the motion.

The votes were as follows:

Steve Barnes – Aye

Andrew Marx – Aye

Corbin White – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

7:57 PM – Andrew Marx made a motion to exit the CLOSED SESSION and ADJOURN. Steve Barnes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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