

Mountain West Montessori Academy

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 24, 2020

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, Nelson Altamirano (via phone; 6:30 p.m.), Corbin White (via phone), Andrew Marx (6:15 p.m. via phone, 6:45 p.m.)

Others in Attendance: Angie Johnson, Sheri Ebert, Dawn Kawaguchi, Marianne Noble, Ken Jeppesen, Brandon Fairbanks

*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 – Steve Barnes
- School Mission – Steve
- Montessori Minute – The board listened to an excerpt of a recent podcast (Ep 31: Growing Pains) on letting students handle their own difficult friend experiences to build resilience.

There was no PUBLIC COMMENT. *This was the second public comment period held for the 2020-2021 fee schedule and amended Fee Waiver Policy.*

REPORTS

- **Eide Bailly**
 - *Review of FY19 Audit* – Ken Jeppesen reviewed the standard letter that is sent out to the board each year. It goes over audit standards, independence of the auditor, consistency of policies, and uncorrected and corrected misstatements. There were no difficulties with the audit. There was a discussion on the difference with GASB and FASB. Ken reviewed the three reports that the Eide Bailly issued an opinion on. All three reports were clean. The first report is the financial statement. Ken

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reviewed the statement of financial position, statement of activities, statement of functional expenses – this is new, statement of cash flows, and the six notes. Ken wanted to give a little more information on note two regarding days cash on hand. The second report is on internal controls which was a clean report. The third report is on state compliance. USBE chooses the areas that are tested each year. This was also a clean report. Overall it is a very clean report and everything seems to be running well. *Ken Jeppesen was excused at 6:32 p.m.*

➤ **Counselor**

- Comprehensive Guidance Report – Marianne Noble has been working on their program for two years to have the standards up to the comprehensive counseling program. We will be having an in-person review on March 24th. One of the requirements is that the board approve this program. This program rises our standards by using data to prove that we are meeting those standards. She has two data projects this year. The first project is working with our Hispanic students (7-9) and making sure that they are succeeding. The second project is implementing the HOPE squad (kid to kid/peer to peer) where she is keeping data on suicide threats/attempts. Marianne surveyed the students to ask who they would talk to if they had something very difficult going on in their life. They were asked to list three students. The same few students rose to the top and that is how they are chosen to be on the HOPE squad. There was a discussion on why the Hispanic students are struggling. There was a discussion on the pros and cons of becoming a comprehensive guidance school. *Marianne Noble was excused at 6:48 p.m.*

➤ **Board of Directors**

- Financial Review – Andrew Marx stated that not much has changed since the last time we met. All the areas that are running high for this time of year has been previously discussed and will actually be adjusted and reallocated by the end of the year.

➤ **Director**

- State of the School – Angie Johnson reviewed the board goals.
 - ✓ Professional Development for Trauma Informed Practice
 - ★ Part 1: Resilience
 - ★ Part 2: Foundations
 - ★ Part 3: Relational Strategies
 - ★ Part 4: Cognitive Strategies – *Currently we are in the midst of Part 4 of this training, teaching Cognitive Distortions and how to challenge them. Reflection reality accurately.*
 - ✓ Improve Student Physical Health
 - ★ Why are students becoming less resilient? (Psychology Today)
 - ★ How can both parents and teachers support the development of resilience?
 - ★ School Report Card & Self-Reported Indicator #2
 - ★ “Grace & Courtesy” language to “Social, Emotional, and Executive Development” language

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- ✓ Expand Literacy Pedagogy
 - ★ Reading Endorsement: Almost finished with second course, Reading & Writing Across the Disciplines
 - ★ Recent DIBELS data & Self-Reported Indicator #1
- ✓ Highlighting a Current Strength
 - ★ Computer Science Planning Grant (Alden)
 - ❖ Teaching Coding (k-9)
- ✓ Highlighting a Recent Challenge
 - ★ Parental Response to Friendship Issues
- ✓ Review of 2020-2021 SLT proposed expenditures
 - ★ Literacy Goal
 - ★ Math Goal
 - ★ *NEW* Support positive student behavior

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

- November 25, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes
- November 25, 2019 Closed Session Affidavit

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

- *Discuss & Vote on Tax Procedures Resolution* – Brandon Fairbanks stated that as part of the bond requirement the board entered into a tax compliance agreement. This resolution is to ratify the adoption of both the Tax Compliance Procedures (Utah Financing Authority) and the Tax Compliance Policy (MWMA). **Andrew Marx made a motion to approve the Tax Procedures Resolution. Lois Bobo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- *Discuss & Vote on 9th Grade Trip Expense* – Angie Johnson stated that is the same 9th grade trip that is taken each year to the Redwood Forest and San Francisco. We currently have (40) students signed up to go. The cost has gone up a little due to cost of the camp and zip line. There are only four 9th graders that are not signed up to go. There was a discussion on the if the chaperones are required to pay for themselves. **Lois Bobo made a motion to approve the 9th grade trip expense not to exceed \$35,000. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- *Discuss & Vote on 2020-2021 SLT Plan* – There was no further discussion. See Director's report for discussion. **Nelson Altamirano made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 School LAND Trust Plan. Steve Barnes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- *Discuss & Vote on 2020-2021 School Calendar* – Angie Johnson reviewed the 2020-2021 school calendar. The main breaks line up with Jordan School District. We start a week before JSD and we end before Memorial Day. **Lois Bobo made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 school calendar. Steve Barnes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

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- *Discuss & Vote on 2020-2021 School Fee Schedule* – Angie Johnson reviewed the new school fee schedule. She stated that the new areas are the expenditures funded by fee (aka the spend plan) as well as the annual maximum fee amounts. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 school fee schedule. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- *Discuss & Vote on Amended Fee Waiver Policy* – Angie Johnson reviewed the amended Fee Waiver Policy. She went over some of the major revisions such as the definitions and language; fee related definitions; fees must be equal or less than the actual expense; no charge on textbooks except for AP and CE course starting 2022-23; fees for optional projects; maximum fee amounts; no increase to fees to cover fee waivers; and the board must review and approve the policy annually. **Andrew Marx made a motion to approve the amended Fee Waiver Policy. Lois Bobo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- *Discuss & Vote on College & Career Readiness School Counseling Program as a K-12 Model* – There was no further discussion. See Marianne’s report above for information. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the official letter of support in order for the school to proceed with their application for the USBE Comprehensive Guidance Grant Program application as a K-12 model as presented. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

- **Calendaring – ALL**
 - March Pre-Board Meeting – rescheduled to Wednesday, March 11th @ 5:00 p.m.
 - Next Board Meeting – March 23rd
 - National Charter School Convention – June 21-24 in Orlando

7:56 PM – Andrew Marx made a motion to move 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 MWMA library. Steve Barnes seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:

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

Motion passed unanimously.

8:08 PM – Lois Bobo made a motion to exit the CLOSED SESSION and ADJOURN. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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