

Mountain West Montessori Academy Electronic Board Meeting Minutes Monday, April 27, 2020

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91120906252>

Mobile: (669) 900-9128

Meeting ID: 911 2090 6252



This meeting of the board of directors will be held via Zoom. Members of the public will be accommodated using the information provided. [Allowable Under: Executive Order Suspending the Enforcement of Provisions of Utah Code §§ 52-4-202 and 52-4-207, and Related State Agency Orders, Rules, and Regulations, Due to Infectious Disease COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus]

In Attendance: Steve Barnes, Corbin White, Nelson Altamirano, Andrew Marx, Lois Bobo

Others in Attendance: Angie Johnson, Sheri Ebert, Alden Thorpe, Cathie Hurst, Brandon Fairbanks, Dawn Kawaguchi

*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 – Andrew
- Montessori Minute – Angie shared a student’s video.

There was no PUBLIC COMMENT.

REPORTS

➤ Director

- *Schoolwide Integration of Computer Science Plan* – Alden Thorpe informed the board that the state of Utah has passed an initiative to get every school in the state to provide a robust computer science curriculum for every single student. He has been working on MWMA’s computer science plan with other staff members of the school. He showed a powerpoint on the school’s plan. The core concepts are:
 - ✓ Computing systems

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- ✓ Networks & the Internet
- ✓ Data & Analysis
- ✓ Computational Thinking
- ✓ Impacts of Computing
- ✓ Algorithms & Processes

The three things that they want to concentrate are make computer science standards easy, engaging, and authentic; connecting students with real world computer science; establish training and support for the teachers and offering middle school courses. They have been piloting this program through a grant this year in the third grade with robotics. Enabling students to dive deeper into the curriculum through computer science. We are looking into offering classes next year. We want to close the technology gap (divide). Some of the partnerships/connections the school has made are with Skill Struck (online coding platform), Imagine Learning (offered field trips to their offices, online q&a, mentoring, etc.) and Realms of Possibilities (science-based computer science). There was a discussion on connecting with free resources such as Code.org and Khan Academy and other companies that the school can connect with.

Alden Thorpe was excused at 6:41 p.m.

- *State of the School* – Angie Johnson reviewed the board priorities.
 - ✓ Professional Development for Trauma Informed Practice
 - ★ Completed PD for this right before school dismissal
 - ★ Resilience is particularly important for students now
 - ⌘ Trying to meet mental health needs during Covid-19 School Dismissal
 - ⌘ Teachers knowledgeable & focused on mental health issues
 - ✓ Improve Student Physical Health
 - ★ Online instruction: on beyond worksheets and videos
 - ★ Online P.E. class
 - ★ Grab & Go Lunches
 - ✓ Expand Literacy Pedagogy
 - ★ Reading Endorsement: Completed second course, *Reading & Writing Across the Disciplines*
 - ★ RISE & Acadience Reading assessments canceled
 - ★ Assessment in a virtual environment
 - ✓ We have personally connected with every family
 - ✓ Teacher guilds (clubs) to help our teachers’ emotional health
 - ✓ ELF (employee love fund) committee – helps with teacher mental health
 - ✓ Our priority is health and safety
 - ✓ Plan to have students come pick up their belongings
 - ✓ Working on having Teacher Appreciation Week (info went out today)
 - ✓ Trying to reschedule their 9th grade trip tentatively for the end of July all other trips were canceled (Costa Rica and 6th grade camp)

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- ✓ *Public Education Engagement and Exit Survey ADMIN Procedures* – This will give the state data on why teachers are leaving the field. There are two surveys here. One is for all teachers to be given every other year and the other is given to any teacher that leaves the school whether it is on their own or if no agreement is offered for the next year. There was a discussion on whether or not the board will be able to review the data. Our teacher retention is pretty good for next year.

➤ **Academica West**

- *Financial Review* – Cathie Hurst reviewed the finances through March 31st. The food service is doing very well. The state only allows 60 days operating expenses and if you have more than that then you have to submit a plan on how you are going to spend that. This is the first year Angie has to come up with a plan. Because the school bonded this year, the school is going to end up with a nice surplus. Overall everything looks like it should expect. Nelson asked about the federal resource’s revenue being lower than expected. Cathie explained that the federal resources must be spent first and then we request reimbursements through Utah Grants. This year things have been slow to show up on Utah Grants. We rely on the state to approve the reimbursements before we can get the money. Cathie added that a lot of our federal programs that have deadlines but they have been extended to next school year. There was a discussion on the school trip refunds.

CONSENT ITEMS

- February 24, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
- February 24, 2020 Closed Session Affidavit
- Amended 2019-2020 School Calendar – Snow Day – *Angie reviewed the calendar.*

Lois Bobo made a motion to approve the CONSENT ITEMS. Corbin White 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.

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

- *Discuss & Vote on Audit Engagement Letters* – Cathie Hurst stated that this year the audit engagement letters will be handled a bit different. Eide Bailly will be sending the letters out electronically but we have sample letters included in the packet. This year AW did go out to bid and received three bids. This year Eide Bailly still came in as the best price and we love working with them. They actually do more of the public schools in the state. Once the board has approved the letters, Eide Bailly will send out the letters electronically to the board president. Cathie mentioned that the email will come from DocuSign. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the engagement of services provided by Eide Bailly for the**

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year ending June 30, 2020 and allow the Board President to sign on behalf of the school. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- *Discuss & Vote on Employee Compensation During School Closure Policy* – Angie Johnson reviewed the Employee Compensation during School Closure and Other Extraordinary Circumstances Policy. This came up during this unfortunate COVID circumstance. This can be adopted by the board retroactively to what it discusses. Our philosophy is to continue to pay our employees no matter what. Our hourly employees have been helping out contributing in various ways to continue to get paid. This really helps our classified employees. Hourly employees can continue to get paid for how many hours they usually work but not more. There was a discussion on receiving the funds from the federal government. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the Employee Compensation During School Closure and Other Extraordinary Circumstances Policy. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

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

Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

- *Calendaring* – ALL
- May Pre-Board Meeting – May 6th @ 5:00 p.m.
 - Next Board Meeting – May 18th

7:51 PM – Andrew Marx made a motion to go 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) via Zoom. Lois Bobo seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:

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

Motion passed unanimously.

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**8:26 PM – Corbin White made a motion to exit the CLOSED SESSION and ADJOURN.
Lois Bobo seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:**

Steve Barnes – Aye

Corbin White – Aye

Nelson Altamirano – Aye

Andrew Marx – Aye

Lois Bobo – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

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