

Mountain West Montessori Academy

Board Retreat Minutes

Monday, May 21, 2018

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



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

Excused: Ryan Parker

Others in Attendance: Angie Johnson, Sheri Ebert, Cathie Hurst, Dawn Kawaguchi, Kim Dohrer, 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

2017-2018 BOARD PRIORITIES

Strengthen Parent Partnerships
Define Learning Excellence @ MWMA
Maintain & Support Quality Faculty

6:17 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Call to Order – Steve Barnes
- School Mission – Corbin

RETREAT ITEMS

- *Board Training* – Kim reviewed the (7) universal principles that all school boards should be doing according to Brian Carpenter. The board and administration split into three groups to go through an exercise using three of the universal principles.
 - What does “*Govern as Stewards Rather than as Stakeholders*” look like?
 - ★ Taking yourself out of the equation and thinking about what is best for the organization
 - ★ Board members should not have an agenda
 - ★ Stewardship promotes service and caring (larger spectrum)
 - ★ Insuring that the mission and vision of the school is met
 - What does “*Speak and Act as One*” look like?
 - ★ Look at all sides – stand together once vote is made
 - ★ Making decisions as a group not individuals (presenting a united front)
 - ★ Don’t represent the board as an individual – decisions are made a group
 - What does “*Spend the Board’s Time on only Things that Matter*” look like?
 - ★ Do things that matter most

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- ★ Focus on the great ideas
- ★ Leave ego at the door – impact student learning

After each group answered the three questions above, there was a discussion on the subject. There was a discussion on the three things that Brian Carpenter says you should discuss in a meeting 1) Student Outcomes; 2) Fiduciary; and 3) Governance. Kim passed out minutes from a past meeting (March 2017). The board discussed how the minutes kept in line with the three things that Brian Carpenter says you should be discussing. There was a discussion on “*what can we be doing better*”.

7:08 PM – Lois Bobo made a motion to take a BREAK. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7:36 PM – Lois Bobo made a motion to RECONVENE the meeting. Corbin White seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RETREAT ITEMS (Continued)

➤ Director’s Report

- State of the School

- ♣ Review of Board Goals and how we did
- ♣ Strengthening Parent Partnerships
 - ★ Review of Parent Survey Results
 - ★ Review of Lottery (enrollment & wait list) – Currently 528
 - ★ Review of Student & Staff Safety Survey – Students and staff scored very close in this survey.
 - ★ Student retention – Review of recent and upcoming activities
 - ✓ Next year’s Club Travel trip is Yellowstone
- ♣ Define Learning Excellence at MWMA
 - ★ We are balancing academic rigor with social and emotional skills and development
 - ★ Review of DIBELS scores
 - ★ Review of SAGE scores – this test is not complete
 - ★ Measuring Social & Emotional growth
- ♣ Maintain & Support Quality Faculty
 - ★ Maslow’s hierarchy of needs
 - ★ What is our target?
 - ✓ A picture of a graduate
- ♣ Recommendations
 - ★ Academic
 - ✓ Work on Upper El Literacy
 - ★ Non-Cognitive
 - ✓ Picking on non-cognitive (self-efficacy)
 - ✓ Pilot non-cognitive skill measurement at MWMA
 - ★ Professional Development
 - ✓ Put the PD studied into practice
 - ★ Safety

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➤ **Strategic Planning**

- SCOT Analysis – Kim reviewed last year’s SCOT analysis. She asked if there were any additions to this. Additions are in RED.

- ♣ **STRENGTH**

- ★ Faculty
- ★ Reputation
- ★ Well Trained Montessori Teachers
- ★ **One more year of experienced teachers**
- ★ Culture of Acceptance and Cooperation amongst entire Staff

- ♣ **CHALLENGES**

- ★ Changes in Assessments
- ★ Changes in the Overall Educational Climate

- ♣ **OPPORTUNITIES**

- ♣ **THREAT**

- ★ Cut in SpEd Funding

There was a discussion on school safety with the recent events in our nation. There was a discussion on the required Botvin education. There was a discussion on bullying.

- Setting Priorities – After discussion with the entire board on the recommended priorities by Angie, these were the top three:

2018-2019 Board Priorities

Non-Cognitive – Self-Efficacy

Implementing Professional Development

Safety in School

Lois Bobo made a motion to approve the CONSENT ITEMS. Nelson Altamirano seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve April 23, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes
- Approve April 23, 2018 Closed Session Affidavit

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

- Calendaring – ALL
 - June Pre-Board Meeting – June 6th (Reschedule) to May 30th
 - Next Board Meeting – June 11th (Annual Meeting)

8:53 PM – Lois Bobo 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) in the MWMA Library. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:

Steve Barnes – Aye

Andrew Marx – Aye

Lois Bobo – Aye

Nelson Altamirano – Aye

Corbin White – Aye

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Motion passed unanimously.

9:16 PM – Andrew Marx made a motion to exit the CLOSED SESSION and ADJOURN. Corbin White seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

On behalf of the board, Steve Barnes thanked Academica West for an amazing year.

**Mountain West Montessori Academy
Closed Executive Board Meeting Affidavit
Monday, May 21, 2018**

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AFFIDAVIT

This Closed Session was held to discuss an individual's character, professional competence, or physical or mental health pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205(1)(a).

Stephen O. Barnes

Steve Barnes – Board President

11 June 2018

Date

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