



Mountain West Montessori Academy

Board Meeting & Retreat Minutes

Monday, August 10, 2015

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

In Attendance: Dan Galli, Steve Barnes, Ryan Parker, Andrew Marx, Linda Hume (4:58 p.m.)

Others in Attendance: Angie Johnson, Amy Pilkington, Shirley Atkinson, Kim Dohrer, Dawn Kawaguchi, 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

2014-2015 BOARD PRIORITIES

Montessori Philosophy
Operational/Financial Stability
Creating a Vested Community

4:42 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Call to Order – Dan Galli
- School Mission – Steve Barnes

RETREAT ITEMS

- Strategic Planning for 2015-2016 School Year – ALL
 - **Parking Lot** – Kim explained the “parking lot”. Kim posted a sheet of paper that for the board to add items that are not on the agenda and if there is time at the end of the retreat we will discuss or schedule them on an upcoming agenda.
 - **Review Last Year’s Priorities** – Dan reviewed the board last year’s priorities. Kim asked the board to review June’s minutes that are included in the board packet. She stated that Amy will be giving her recommendations for the upcoming year’s priorities.
 - **Data** – Amy presented a powerpoint to the board that is a summation of last year.
 - ♣ Creating a Vested Community – Amy measured success from our ...
 - ✓ Word of mouth
 - ★ Full lottery
 - ★ TA applicants
 - ★ Daily requests to get into school
 - ✓ From our students
 - ★ Excited to start school again
 - ★ “My student loves learning again”

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- ★ Behavior “problems” that have “disappeared”
- ✓ From our teachers
 - ★ Recruiting quality teachers
 - ★ Commitment to summer training
 - ★ Outside of contract hours - teachers want to be here
 - ★ Excitement of returning
- ✓ From our parents
 - ★ Volunteer hours
 - ★ Pizza fundraiser
 - ★ Donations
 - ★ Clubs: Tennis, Storytelling, Spanish, Shakespeare and Physics have already been proposed without advertising clubs yet
- ♣ Assessment – Amy and Kim explained the transition from CRT assessments to SAGE assessments and how the percent proficient has dropped drastically because the SAGE test much harder than the CRT test. Kim briefly explained the grading system by looking at both growth and percent proficient.
 - ✓ Review of scores in ELA, Mathematics and Science
 - ✓ The impact of Opt-Out – Amy explained how students who opt-out affect the school’s total grade score. She also explained how students who didn’t take the test last year or were home schooled but took the test this year also affected the school’s scores. Some top performing students from last year opted out this year and that also affects the scores.
 - ✓ Review of how MWMA compared to other schools in ELA, Math and Science
 - ✓ Assessment on what changes we are making to increase 2015-2016 scores by 2%
 - ★ Math – additional curriculum including task cards, weekly assessments, intervention track for struggling students
 - ★ ELA – additional curriculum in non-fiction reading, middle school writing focus, interventions for struggling readers
 - ★ Science – additional curriculum, different approach to teaching, unit assessments
 - ✓ Recommendations for Goals
 - ★ Academic Rigor
 - ⚙ 2% growth in SAGE scores
 - ★ Accreditation
 - ★ Budget
 - ⚙ Purchase our building

6:11 PM – Steve Barnes made a motion to move into a RECESS. Linda Hume seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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6:49 PM – Ryan Parker made a motion to RECONVENE. Andrew Marx seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RETREAT ITEMS (Continued)

- Establishing 2015-2016 Goals/Priorities – Kim asked the board if they agree with the recommended goals by Amy. There was a discussion on what Amy sees as her role in the budget goal and how she can help. Dan stated that he should have some information by the next meeting on purchasing the building. There was a discussion on how to measure the goals including anecdotal and data points.

2015-2016 Board Priorities

1. Academic Rigor
 - a. Guided by Montessori philosophy/materials
 - b. 2% increase in SAGE scores in all areas
 2. Accreditation
 3. Financial Stability
 - a. Purchase of building
- Review Parking Lot Items
 - ♣ There was a discussion on offering a foreign language class in the future.
 - ♣ There was a discussion on the Dress Code Policy to include school colors or more shirt colors. Amy and Linda would like to see the students bring a proposal for another shirt color to the board.
 - ♣ Survey discussion regarding school communication. There was discussion on the continued work on communication within the school.
 - Board Training/ Reflection – The board should always ask parents if they have talked to Amy about their grievance before they bring the topic to a board discussion.
 - Next Steps
 - ♣ The board/admin need to bring their desired result for enhanced communication within the school by the Winter Retreat.
 - ♣ Ask the same communication question on the next survey set to be sent out spring 2016. Steve suggested adding “timely” to the question.
 - ♣ The board would like Amy to have a discussion point in her monthly “state of the school” within Academic Rigor on how she is getting the student progress to parents and what that looks like. The board would like Amy to keep track of parent conversations on student progress.

Ryan Parker made a motion to approve the CONSENT ITEMS. Linda Hume seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve June 23, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes
- Approve June 23, 2015 Closed Session Affidavit

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

- *Discuss and Vote on 3% 401(k) Employee Match* – Kim stated that this was already approved in the 2015-2016 budget. It is best practice to make it official so voting on this will implement what the school has already said we would do. **Steve Barnes made a motion to approve the 3% 401(k) employee match. Ryan Parker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

- Calendaring – ALL
 - September Pre-Board Meeting – September 15th @ 3:30 p.m.
 - Next Board Meeting – September 22nd

8:19 PM – Andrew Marx made a motion to ADJOURN. Linda Hume seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

August Action Items:

1. Review Dress Code Policy (School Colors) in the Spring – **Dan**
2. Dashboard survey (50 families) on Dress Code Policy and communication a month before it's on the agenda (Winter Retreat – January) – **Amy**
3. Desired result for enhanced communication within the school by Winter Retreat – **ALL**
- 4.