

Mountain Sage Community School - Board Agenda, 11-10-2014  
Location - MSCS, 6:30-9:30PM

### **Intro Session**

A1. Call to Order, 6:47 pm, Attendance: Liv Helmericks, Hillary Mizia, Jon Pointer, Amy DeVries, Faculty Rep: Sarah Braun, Consultant: Nancy Sexton (excused absent)

A2. Approve Minutes: approved

A3. New Business

A4. Approve Agenda

A5. Reading Our Mission: Cultivating the Creative Mind

Mountain Sage Community School offers Waldorf-inspired, arts-integrated education, fully incorporating sustainable living practices into student learning. Each child will be empowered to cultivate meaningful connections to their intellectual, physical, emotional, social and creative capacities in healthy, safe and beautiful learning environments. Through a supportive community of peers, parents and teachers, each child will become a confident, self-directed and engaged learner, invested in their own education.

A6. Public Comment - 3 minutes per person - limit 20 minutes total

### **Business Session**

B1. Financial Updates

1. Any budget updates? Prelim budget for next year due at December meeting. No updates for this month.

B2. Director Update - Liv

1. Review written admin report - questions and/or important points

The Care Group has been overwhelmed previously, but George Hoffecker provided Liv with some insight and a new model that might alleviate many of the difficulties faced by the group.

Mountain Sage is looking for a new Integrated Services teacher and has posted a job opening on the website. George offered resources to point the Administration in the right direction regarding communication between classrooms and the Integrated Services/Special Ed program. Liv has also reached out to the PSD Integrated Services liaison for some help. It was briefly discussed that the School also needs a counselor. The Board will need to look at how to support these items when looking at the budget.

Liv completed classroom observations with the help of George and Nancy Sexton.

Nancy will become the pedagogical chair for the faculty. She will be a source of support to Liv in that position by keeping the pulse of the faculty.

The READ Act is stressful and the faculty needs more support in the form of an Interventionist or Instructional Paras. It was discussed that Liv and the Administration need specific staff for help with this and the Board needs to reflect this in the budget. Also discussed was the need for more facilities space.

A letter or email from the Board to the faculty to say, "We are here to support you" was discussed.

Parking is an ongoing problem. The Board discussed the issue and decided on adding a person at the East end of the entrance to keep cars from blocking the entire lot. The School will also work on having some kind of a barrier and a person on the West end to prevent parents from parking in the prohibited lots. Other ideas were also discussed.

#### B3. Governance - Jon

1. Update on policies work- Jon should have the first 20 policies completed soon and will then ask Liv to take a look and be sure she is happy with how its going.
2. Update on visit with George- In a meeting with George, Jon, Amy and Liv we discussed the process for growing the Board. George suggested an interview process, beginning with the Board discussing what is important to us. It was decided that the Board would interview a prospective new member at the end of the first meeting attended and we would like to invite applicants to participate in meetings as they see fit.

We also discussed how many board members we are looking to end up with and having a Parent Council representative. It was decided that the Parent Council rep would have input, but would not be able to vote. Formally adopting a consensus style of voting was discussed. George shared an example of another school doing this and the process developed there.

3. Strategic plan working session- Postponed

#### B4. Misc

1. Board - directors vs. trustees? Discussion. Trustees was the consensus.
2. Town Hall meeting on 11/19 - Rescheduled to December 16th
3. Members - Jessi has not yet sent her resignation to the Board. The Board and the Administration will move forward with the process of passing on or closing out any projects Jessi was working of with the Board or the Foundation. Duan has had some ongoing personal difficulties with scheduling and will be unable to fulfill his Board duties. He has sent his resignation with regrets.

### **Closing Session**

C1. Review New Action Items

C2. Move to Adjourn: 9:33 pm

C3. Closing Verse:

Steadfast I'll stand in existence. With certainty I tread life's path.

Love I cherish in the depths of my being. Hope I place in every deed.

Confidence I place in every thought. These five guide me through existence,

These five guide me to the goal.