

Mountain Sage Community School - Board Agenda, 2-9-2015  
Location - MSCS, 6:30-9:30PM

### **Intro Session**

A1. Call to Order, 6:33pm, Attendance: Jon Pointer, Hillary Mizia, Amy DeVries, Liv Helmericks, Sarah-Gennie Colazio, Faculty Rep: Sarah Braun, Consultant: Nancy Sexton, Guests: Rainbow Rosenbloom, Tim Weinmann, Ariel Witt, and Noel Jensen

A2. Approve Minutes: Approved

A3. New Business

A4. Approve Agenda: Approved with the addition of time for Rainbow to say a few things and Hillary would like time to discuss grants and give a fundraising update

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

Rainbow had a short message for the Board to be sure the way we conduct business in a Waldorf school reflects the values of the school with consistent consciousness of how we are treating each other. Rainbow also discussed the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education as a network of support for public Waldorf schools nationally and internationally. It is a community that lobbies both with the State Departments and also within the private Waldorf system. The Alliance hopes to be able to support young public Waldorf schools with everything from the initial stages for boards and best practices to advice on Charters, rubrics in classrooms, care groups and hiring and terminations.

### **Business Session**

B1. Financial Updates

1. Budget updates- Sarah-Gennie: We did receive some money from the ELL Grant and Read Act Grant. The School is doing well for the mid-year budget.

Projections for next year look to have a small end of year increase. The 2015/16 Budget included a few small increases in the faculty area and will still need some tweaking in other areas.

Rainbow noted that we will need to offer an attractive benefit package in order to retain and recruit an enthusiastic faculty, especially from outside, the area to have a successful school.

2. Fundraising proposal - Nancy and Hillary

Hillary updated the Board on the success of the Scrip presentations. The fundraising letter has been re-phrased and is ready to be sent out now as a follow-up to the Scrip presentations and a reminder for parents that there are many ways to support the School.

*The Board supports the decision to print and mail the fundraising letter as well as follow it up with a reminder email.*

There was some discussion about specifying a goal to give parents an incentive. Program enrichment and growing the School were two ideas. It was also suggested that the Board should be looking into grants regularly and narrow the focus to 2-3 grants in addition to taking on the Friends of Mountain Sage donors. Nancy brought the idea of MSCS products to be sold by the School. Nancy has offered to be the point person for the Store and will set up examples to be seen and purchased at the School. There will also be an option to shop online at the website. Nancy is willing to do most of the sales and ordering.

SG leaves: 7:57 pm

## B2. Director Update - Liv

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

The CSSI visit in May will require Board participation.

The School is looking very good with the recommitment and intent numbers for the next school year.

Rainbow leaves for a School Tour with Sarah: 8:01pm

The faculty has many ideas for including parents in what is going on with their children in the class. But an all school assembly feels redundant with May Faire coming up. The Teachers are working on how their class will participate in May Faire, but also keeping in mind that last year was too long. There was a discussion about the need to remember the difference between private and public school and keep in mind who the audience is.

Liv updated the Board on the Matrix development for the PBIS and the need for a common language for the first level of discipline. The Board also discussed that the common language should include the sustainability piece. The children should be reminded not only how we treat each other, but how we treat the earth.

The Board decided on another Town Hall Meeting for April 15th from 6:30-8:30pm.

There was another discussion about how we can offer child care at the Town Hall Meeting as well as other School meetings as an incentive for parents to come.

The Board wants to have consistent child care and not burden the care givers, so suggested asking for a small amount of money. Another suggestion was to offer free childcare for the town hall meeting and then charge a small amount for parent meetings, parent council etc.

Nancy and Liv shared their experiences from the visit with the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education. There was some information on shaping the Middle School and being sure we aren't saying "no tech", but that we are saying "low tech" and that we should be very proud of it. Relevant data is coming out that we will be able to use for grants. Waldorf Charter schools are now serving almost 12,000 students. There were discussions on educating the will and allowing students to be involved with the earth, and another session focused on discipline and being proactive.

The Faculty will need balance and focus as assessments come up. The teachers will be raising awareness for the support of the kids with good breakfasts and lots of sleep and this will in turn support the Faculty. Parents will be encouraged to read the newsletters and be aware of the testing schedule.

The Waldorf Conference is coming up at Mountain Phoenix and Board members are welcome to attend if they would like.

Hillary will attend the Colorado League of Charter Schools Conference on February 27th.

Liv would like support with the facility development from the Board. The subject of taking over the entire building has been broached with Warren.

Liv reminded the Board that the Strategic Plan for the School and for the Sustainable Living piece needs to be focused on once again. There was a suggestion of sending out a monthly sustainable tip that families can tackle as a reminder. It was discussed that people want ideas and reminders of ways to do things that can be helpful in changing behaviors.

### B3. Governance - Jon

1. Review Board Calendar items for February: Jon is still working on the policies
2. New board member discussion and voting: All discussed with Tim and reminded him what we are looking for and we may need to revisit how each of us can help with the work of the Board.

### **Closing Session**

C1. Review New Action Items

C2. Move to Adjourn: 9:23 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.