

Intro Session

A1. Call to Order 7:04 pm, Attendance: Liv Helmericks, Sarah-Gennie Colazio, Nancy Sexton, Jessi Brandt-Feldenkirchen, Hillary Mizia, Jon Pointer, Duan Ruff, Amy DeVries, Faculty Rep: Sarah Braun Excused Absent

A2. Approve Minutes: Minutes Approved, Review Action Items: Action Items reviewed individually previous to meeting

A3. New Business: No new business

A4. Approve Agenda: Agenda Approved

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

Business Session

B1. 2014/2015 Budget - SG/Duan

1. 3rd Quarter Financials and Final Budget Approval-Jon asked about availability of the money set aside for construction on the new Kindergarten space. Sarah-Gennie stated that the money is available when it is needed. Sarah-Gennie updated the board regarding the 3rd Quarter Financials. We are right on track at 71%. We have a preliminary budget in place for 2014/2015, but are still waiting to hear what the final dollar amount we will receive per pupil from PSD is going to be. We will have that information in May.

Sarah-Gennie leaves 7:40 pm

B2. Director Update - Liv

1. Review written admin report - questions and/or important points- The Board discussed the report and Liv noted that the new Behavior Management Plan being used for children with challenging behavior is working better for the faculty. Also, the faculty held a restorative talking circle in March and have adopted the talking circle format for regular faculty meetings. Both Liv and Nancy were pleased with the outcome of the circle noting that it was very productive in increasing warmth in relationships and communications. Hillary asked if the restorative circle was in response to anything the Board might need to know about. Liv discussed the incredible amount of work needed from each member of the faculty to get through the first year and that communications needed to be better.

Duan asked about highly qualified applicants. Liv and Nancy discussed the continuing outreach and work on building the pool of applicants. Duan also asked how much turnover we should expect from year to year. Liv said our hiring committee is diligently working on finding the best people for our school; people who really want to work for Mountain Sage Community School and have values and beliefs that align with our mission and vision. Because of this, we would see less and less turnover each year.

Jessi asked about adding a question to the school satisfaction survey regarding automatic withdrawals for donations and/or tuition. It was also discussed that the survey should take 10 minutes or less to complete and that information should be noted on the the first page. Duan suggested amending question 9 to include both reasons why you would wish to stay on at Mountain Sage Community School, and why you would wish to leave. The next SAC meeting is in June.

B3. Governance - Jon

1. Board notebook - review any suggested changes from board members- The Board had no changes or suggestions, so we have our functioning governing documents. We can focus on policy work now.
2. Director evaluation update- Melinda Starr and Monica Corrado have agreed to form the committee for the administrator evaluation. After reviewing the questions she received from George Hoefecker, Hillary recommended that the Committee use the evaluation form included in the Charter, but divide the questions into a few different surveys for different audiences such as the Board, Administration and Faculty. They will meet next week to begin the process. The Charter says Liv will use the same questions for the self-evaluation. Jon will share the questions with Liv for a guide, but not require that Liv use them.
3. Calendar review and set date for June retreat-

B4. CLCS/CDE Items

1. Board training modules
 - a. Any notable training items? Hillary, Duan and Amy
Hillary discussed the Grant writing module and noted that there was no information on a foundation doing the grant writing. The module suggested the Board should be approving every grant. Hillary also discussed the Communication module. The module suggested that the Board hold a Town Hall style meeting a couple of times a year in order to create an established format. It was discussed that the Board look at including a Town Hall meeting format next year. Nancy suggested that the Board needs to include some communication in the weekly newsletter. It seems parents have questions about the governing structure of the school. It was suggested that a diagram on the website and/or in the newsletter might be helpful to parents. Jessi asked about including the foundation in the diagram.
 - b. Schedule to complete? Hillary, Duan and Amy- Should be completed in May
2. CCSP Grant Training discussion - Amy discussed the need to complete the CCSP Technical Assistance training. The Board needs to schedule a Specialized Governing Training and/or a Specialized Instructional Leadership Training before the end of June. Amy shared a few offerings from the Colorado League of Charter Schools which were pre-approved by the CDE. It was discussed that we might want to have a differentiated training which would need to be approved by the CDE. The topics of Parent Communication and Board Governing Structure were suggested.
3. Sunshine List Document - Amy shared the wording for the Sunshine List which will need to be included in the Parent Handbook for next year and posted on the website.

B5. Misc

1. Safety plan update - Jon/Liv- Jessi updated the Board. She and Liv have been absorbing the PSD emergency and preparedness manual and they are working to develop programs and processes that will work for our school. One struggle they face is that PSD will not allow them access to the same resources used for public schools. Mountain Sage Community School needs a crisis team put together. Liv would be supported by the crisis team. Nancy offered her valuable expertise and knowledge in this area.

Closing Session

C1. Review New Action Items

C2. Move to Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned 9:47 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.