

Mountain Sage Community School - Board Agenda, 5-11-2015
Location - MSCS, 6:30-9:30PM

Intro Session

A1. Call to Order, 6:34pm, Attendance: Jon Pointer (6:33pm), Hillary Mizia, Amy DeVries, Tim Weinmann (6:37pm), Ariel Witt, Liv Helmericks, Sarah Braun, Sarah-Gennie, Consultant: Nancy Sexton

A2. Approve Minutes: Approved

A3. New Business

A4. Approve 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 - limit 20 minutes total

Business Session

B1. Financial Updates

1. Any updates to 2015-2016 budget - Sarah-Gennie

2014-15 Budget is going well but the Board will need to approve an acceptable amount to be used for Facilities at June meeting.

Brief discussion about 2015-16 budget changes. Because, enrollment could be lower than projected, upstairs construction costs may be higher than expected and the per pupil revenue will be significantly lower per student than expected; the 2015/16 Budget will need to be changed. The Board discussed thoughts on new ways to use fundraising in the budget... plan, fund and then execute as well as needing an essentials only budget. The Board also discussed several ideas to fund some of the most valued items on the budget such as ways to draw more enrollment.

The description of the school on the 990 Informational Tax Return is redundant and Sarah-Gennie will change it.

Jon Pointer moved for the approval of the 990 Informational Tax Return with change to the school description.

Amy DeVries seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously

2. Fundraising discussion - Tim

Tim discussed the Mountain Sage Fundraising Plan and the letter he would like to email out to parents. Tim will use the term *sub-committee of the Board* when talking or writing about this fundraising committee. Including the "Close the Gap"

language and information in this plan was discussed.

3. "Close the Gap" discussion - Ariel

The Board discussed the success/failure of the Fundraising letter sent earlier this year. It seems many parents did not receive the letter at all. It was decided to use the "Close the Gap" language in the MS Fundraising Plan and to move the focus from the Board raising the funds to families and the school working together to provide what is needed. It was also decided to restructure the annual ask into more of a monthly pledge/gift. This plan would be presented at the beginning of school as part of the orientation package and it will be ongoing every year since we will always have this gap and will continue to need to fundraising dollars.

B2. Director Update - Liv

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

The CSSI visit went well overall. The team recognized our inclusive relations and joy in the children.

Budget discussed above.

A volunteer letter to be sent out to parents listing all opportunities available was discussed. Also discussed was offering times working parents can attend, a postcard with a calendar instead of a letter, and also breaking down the volunteer hours and asking families to donate 2 hours per month.

Hiring is coming along, but slowly.

The Middle School Committee has begun exploring the required grade based system for our middle school. Discussions have also included aligning the progress rubric with specialty teachers and giving clear expectations to students.

Faculty: The topic of a transportation survey was discussed

Outreach is coming along. Ideas for increasing enrollment were briefly discussed.

B3. Misc

1. Changes to Colorado Open Records Act - Amy

Amy shared the change to CORA regarding charging a fee for the retrieval or copying of records. If PSD does have a policy, we would fall under this and specify that we adhere to this policy.

2. Roles discussion - All

Hillary will take the President role and Jon will take the Treasurer role.

Jon Pointer made the motion to elect Hillary President and take the Treasurer role officially at the close of the June meeting

Amy DeVries seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously

B4. Governance

1. Review Board Calendar items for May- Jun
 - a. Discuss June meeting and agenda for August retreat: We will have a regular meeting on June 8th and the retreat will be August 22nd 8am - 1pm
Agenda: would focus on the work session of the Strategic Plan
2. Strategic Plan review and work session - All - TBD - possibly hold for retreat
Hold for Retreat

Closing Session

C1. Review New Action Items - Also review of old action items and action item registry

C2. Move to Adjourn 9:09pm

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.