

Mountain Sage Community School - Board Agenda, 8-25-2014
Location - MSCS, 8:00-10:00PM

Intro Session

A1. Call to Order 8:09pm, Attendance: Liv Helmericks, Nancy Sexton, Jessi Brandt-Feldenkirchen, Hillary Mizia, Jon Pointer, Duan Ruff, Amy DeVries, Faculty Rep: Sarah Braun

A2. Approve Minutes- Approved minutes from the 7/14/14 and 8/11/14 meetings.

A3. New Business

A4. Approve Agenda - Approved with addition of Nancy's announcement

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

Nancy let the Board know she is having hip replacement surgery in October. She will be unable to attend the October meeting or the November meeting.

Duan will be available for Monday meetings in the future.

Business Session

B1. Business Manager Financial Report -

1. Approve final 2014/2015 budget- Budget was approved at the meeting on August 11, 2014. The Board had some questions for Liv. The budget has a projected enrollment of 214 and it was asked how firm that number is. Liv expects that it will be a bit lower and will have a firm number with the October count. But for the September meeting, she will let the Board know what each class looks like and bring a more likely number for budgeting. Purchasing new windows throughout the school was discussed. This project is not specifically pointed out in the budget, but it is very high on the list for this year. We do have a projected surplus in the budget and will discuss whether to use that money or hold onto it at the next Board meeting when we have a more firm enrollment number.

B2. Director Update - Liv

1. Review written admin report - questions and/or important points- The Board had some questions/comments on results of the Parent survey. The survey showed the school needs more frequent and consistent communication from teachers to parents, we need to strengthen the core Waldorf methods and experience in each classroom, and we need to keep better tabs on each class environment - behavioral, progress, etc. Also, Liv needs to ensure she is keeping up with emails and responses. The Board also discussed comments that many parents aren't able to come to parent nights because of

child care. There needs to be more consistent communication with families to encourage engagement. It was also discussed that Parent Council's focus is community building and festival help.

Liv updated the Board on the SAC meeting in which the Parent Survey results were discussed. The Committee would like to develop a response to the results, letting the parent body know what the Administration heard from their responses and the resulting approach. The SAC will meet again to follow up on that in the near future. They also looked at basic results for TCAP, but Liv is not sure yet what role the SAC will play in that.

The Internet connectivity/bandwidth problem has been ongoing, but Liv discussed the options and will be making changes soon.

The Safety document is a work in progress. Liv will hold a Safety Training on Tuesday with the Faculty.

Liv updated the Board on the TCAP results: there is a lot of work to be done. Liv will meet with PSD on Wednesday and will have a better idea where we stand at that time.

B3. Governance - Hillary

1. Review calendar - August - Hillary's focus has been on the Sustainability Summit and she wasn't able to get back with these items. The Board decided to move these agenda items to the September meeting.

<i>Review Director Goals and Plans and Follow Up - Liv will follow up on goals the Board gave her.</i>
<i>Refresher on Charter/Mission/Vision - Jon/Hillary: We are still confident in our C/M/V</i>
<i>Review Board Member Agreement and Sign for Upcoming Year -</i>
<i>Set Date for October Mid-Year Board Retreat - All (and see note below*): The Retreat will be held on October 19, 2014 from 8am-12pm. We will set the agenda at the September meeting. It was discussed that we would add the Foundation to the Agenda for the mid-year retreat and have Jessi and Ben attend. The Board will discuss some Board composition review and self evaluation at the September meeting. There was also a discussion on needing more board members, and a decision will be made at the September meeting. The process of getting new board members is not in the bylaws and we may need to amend them to document our process.</i>
<i>Nancy will not be available to attend the mid-year retreat due to the surgery.</i>

2. Strategic Plan and Goals Discussion - Amy and Hillary - This discussion will be moved to the September Board meeting. Strategic Planning needs to be visited at least quarterly. We should leave a half hour or so at the September meeting for some brainstorming activity.

Nancy suggested we move the November meeting to the 3rd so that we can meet with George Hoeffecker. We need to decide what we want to get out of a meeting with George and what his focus will be while he is at the school.

The Board discussed with Jessi that she would like to focus on the foundation and not attend Board meetings unless there is a specific Foundation discussion. She can send updates for the meetings. As an official announcement:

Jessi will continue to attend Board meetings for the remainder of the year (2014) and will step back beginning in January to focus on the Foundation.

Closing Session

C1. Review New Action Items

C2. Move to Adjourn: 9:48pm

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.