

Mountain Sage Community School - Board Agenda, 9-14-2015
Location - MSCS, 6:30-9:30PM

Intro Session 6:30 pm

A1. Call to Order: 6:37pm Attendance: Jon Pointer, Hillary Mizia, Amy DeVries, Tim Weinmann, Ariel Witt, Liv Helmericks, Faculty Rep: Marna Widom (excused Absent), Consultant: Nancy Sexton, Guest: Daniel Covey

A2. Approve Minutes: Approved

A3. New Business: Adding Transportation Survey and Town Hall meetings to B5. 2.

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 6:45 pm, pending public comment

B1. Committee Updates (30 minutes)

1. Finance- Jon discussed the current and future budget schedule. Budget to Actuals will usually be about a month behind with more pressing details as up to date as possible. Audit results will be available at the October meeting.

2. Fundraising- Tim and Daniel shared the fundraising strategies and ideas they have been discussing. Grants, Events and Sponsorships are a big focus. Daniel asked the Board if contracting with Joanna Rago would be of interest or an option. The Board is interested in having Joanna come to an upcoming meeting and make a brief presentation. Setting MSCS fundraising goals is a focus. Daniel has offered to apply for some Grants on behalf of the school. Other fundraising topics were discussed. The Bridge the Gap suggestion amount of \$25 was discussed as well. A visual aide or graph on the website showing our progress in bridging the gap was also suggested. Daniel leaves 7:18pm

3. Marketing- A new banner will be installed along with the one we currently have on Prospect Rd. Information gathering and orientation at School Tours was discussed. Based on tour information, people are often finding us through the Internet. Google ads have been extremely popular. The Board decided to have the ads continue running through the end of September with a cap on the dollar amount.

A video showing the wonderful life at our school is in the works. There was a discussion about parent releases for the video. The newsletter will include an request for parents to contact the school if they do not want their child in the video. Also parents who have already said no to pictures will be contacted directly. An additional brief fundraising video was discussed while the video company is already on site. It was decided this was not needed.

B3. Director Update - Liv (30 minutes)

1. Review written admin report : Budget changes will need to be discussed at the October meeting. The Board will need to discuss the purchase of the additional facility space in the November meeting.

The Board discussed having middle schoolers participate in optional trips and fundraising for themselves. The Board is supportive of classes fundraising as a whole for projects or trips that include the entire class (as long as it is inline with the school fundraising policies). The Board does not feel specialized groups should fundraise within the school.

The next Town Hall meeting dates were discussed. Topics will be discussed at the October meeting.

The school does not have the option to appeal our Turnaround status this year. An updated letter for the 2015/16 school year will be sent to inform our parents of the school's status. A discussion was held about setting new UIP goals and getting the new UIP together. The administration will look at state achievement ratings as well as district ratings to determine to our goals. The Board needs to be a strong advocate for the curriculum. This maybe a topic for a Town Hall meeting. The Board would like to do something for the faculty to show support. Having one Board member attend a faculty meeting several times during the year was discussed. Bringing a treat for the faculty was also discussed.

B5. Governance (90 minutes)

1. Strategic Plan: Suspended until a later date. A short ad-hoc meeting to work on the Strategic Plan will be held on Monday October 12th from 11-12:30.

2. Operational Items

1. New meeting time- Hillary proposed changing our meeting times to daytime hours.
2. Board Seats/Review- Hillary discussed having the Waldorf expert as a seat on the Board. The question of seeking out an expert for the Board or making the Pedigogical Chair-person be an ex-officio member was asked.

Hillary Mizia moved to amend the By-Laws to include the Pedigogical Chair as an ex-officio Board Member

Tim Weinmann seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously

The Board will need legal counsel to make amendments to the By-Laws. Finding new counsel was discussed.

3. Charter School Bond Committee- Hillary discussed having an MSCS Board representative attend the Bond Committee meeting(s)
4. PSD Board Elections- Nancy discussed 5 of 7 Board Seats are up for election. If all of those seats a replaced, there will not be many people on the Board who know anything about our school. Nancy recognized that political topics should be discussed outside of the meeting and invited anyone to discuss with her at a later time.

Closing Session 9:15 pm, unless arrived at earlier

C1. Review All Action Items- Amy

C2. Move to Adjourn: 9:22pm

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.