

## **MSCS Town Hall December 2014**

Mountain Sage Community School – Town Hall Agenda, 4-15-15

Location - MSCS, 6:30-8:30PM

Call to Order, 6:36pm. Attendance: Jon Pointer, Hillary Mizia, Amy DeVries, Liv Helmericks, Tim Weinmann, Ariel Witt, Nancy Sexton -Instructional Mentor, and Sarah Braun- Faculty Rep + around 10 parents

- Welcome and introductions – Liv  
Since we had such a small group, everyone introduced themselves
- Read Mission and Sustainability Definition – Ariel and Amy
- Plan for the Evening – Jon
  
- State of the School – Jon
  - The MSCS budget is inline for the 2014/15. We have an approved budget projection for 2015/16 and all is looking good, but we always need additional funds for improvement and additions to the curriculum and to be able to offer our teachers a competitive salary.
  - The remodel for the middle school is on track to be our big summer project. The middle school team has been meeting to develop the schedule and programming.

A question was asked about parents attending the middle school team meetings – information is available from the parent meeting and getting with your teacher would be another way to share thoughts, opinions, ideas and information.

A question was asked about how the hiring of new and additional teachers is going and how parents can help get the word out regarding positions needing to be filled - Parent meetings will be coming for some of the grades and information will be shared soon about new faculty coming on board.

A question was asked about teaching computer technology and offering computers for teachers and students - Programs are being looked at and the school will be exploring all the options. The administration would like to better understand how the parent community feels regarding the use of computers. We are always welcome to new ideas. \*\*\*Bill Tucker has offered his expertise for “computering” and ideas.

A question was asked about whether or not the coming middle school Math teacher will have a Waldorf background - If not, the teacher hired will attend professional development in the Waldorf curriculum.

- Testing – Hillary
  - The Board is very pleased with how staff and faculty have approached testing. The need to support the children was embraced by the teachers and faculty with very positive results. We were prepared enough to maintain a sense of calm for the children.

A question was asked about the required minimum number of participants for testing and if we met that number - We did meet the number required. But the focus of the school is on developing a healthy culture around testing and supporting the children. Parents do have a legal right to opt out and the participation rates have been relaxed a bit because of this being a testing transition year. However, MSCS wants to encourage as much participation as possible since we are a very young charter school.

A question was asked about the Board's position on testing participation. The Board must support the testing because it is required. The Board also supports creating a supportive atmosphere among the faculty, the parents and the children. MSCS encourages the highest participation rate we can have. However, the school would like to see a reduction in the amount of testing required.

A question was asked about testing changes for next year – We just don't know. It was suggested that as parents we make our voice heard at the state level.

- Fundraising sub-committee – Tim
  - Tim is creating a fundraising sub-committee to help with the long-term financial health of our programs and resources. Tim will be sending out a letter to all parents to let them know more information about the sub-committee. The focus will be on finding larger type donors and forging relationships with them. The committee will also manage the overall fundraising activities for MSCS. Anyone interested in helping, offering advice, lending wisdom or sharing ideas can email [Board@mountainsage.org](mailto:Board@mountainsage.org).
- Parent Council Sharing – Becky
  - Parent Council Secretary, Becky Shook-Wotzka shared the two types of meetings being held by Parent Council. In the first meeting, the class representatives come and raise topics of need for the Teachers and/or classrooms. \*\*\*There are currently many gaps in the class representative area. If anyone is interested in helping they can contact their class Teacher. The second type of meeting being held is a working meeting with an action plan. The collaboration meetings are currently focused on designing information for new MSCS parent orientation. The subject of each collaboration meeting will change to a new focus area as each topic is taken care of.

- Scrip Update – Nancy
  - Scrip is a dollar for dollar program in which MSCS receives a certain percentage from each purchase. King Soopers Cards are the most easily used. Kristen Vogt is available most Friday mornings at the parent coffee and also has some King Soopers cards for purchase at the front desk most of the time. The school has made over \$900 from King Soopers in the past two months and that is with less than half the school participating.

A question was asked if there is a way to know the percentage of people using Scrip in each class. - Kristen will look into that information.

- Open Forum - All

A question was asked about social media for MSCS - Ariel is going to be focusing on the marketing for the Board. Hillary and Maestra Bolton will be continuing the Facebook postings and are always happy to have articles, information or ideas.

A question was asked about how parents can help with the marketing - Ariel and Liv have been discussing ideas. The best thing we can do is talk about the school with other parents and people we meet. Ignite Fort Collins was discussed. Having the kids present something was also discussed. Having the kids on school tours was discussed. Art Lab was discussed.

A question was asked about the school offering Eurythmy - We are still looking for the right person to teach, but we do have it in our 2015/16 budget.

A question was asked about promoting the garden – The garden is something most schools don't have. Bringing our school to Farmers Markets to show Waldorf art and have the kids talk about taking a gardening class was discussed. Also an idea was to hold a farmers market at the school.

A question was asked about the school parking letter regarding what kind of outreach has been extended towards those businesses - We can always do more. But the school did a lot of meeting with all the business owners initially. The main issue is, legally, we cannot park in these areas because it is actually private property. The owner of our building is the President of the Business Park and he felt the need to share with our community the formal issues. Needing volunteers to help with traffic flow was discussed. Building the middle school remote park and walk group was discussed. Volunteers for crosswalk help from the Bath remote parking lot was discussed. Becoming a designated School Zone was discussed. \*\*\*Public relations and outreach help was offered by Gene Feichtl.

A question was asked about emergency plans - We have a plan for many different types of contingencies. A staff training was done at the beginning of the year. Parent volunteers are welcome to get involved in the school safety team.

End 8:06pm