

Board Business Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2021, 6:00-8:30 p.m., Zoom Meeting

A. Opening, 6:00 p.m.

A1. Call to Order

Beau B. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A2. Attendance & Introductions

- Present: Beau Bump, Liv Helmericks, Melinda Kerst, Bryan Kimbell, Jon Pointer, Eric Richardson, Rachael Sudhalter, Mary Wolf, Nancy Sexton (faculty liaison)
- Late:
- Absent:
- Guests: Stephane Cosby (board candidate), Ashley Haas (interested parent-possible board candidate), Hillary Mizia (Communications and Development Coordinator)

A3. Our Mission: [Cultivating the Creative Mind](#)

Beau B. read our school Mission at 6:12 p.m.

A4. Public Comment (3 minutes per person, Limit 20 minutes total)

B. Preliminary Matters, 6:15 p.m.

B1. Approve Minutes from Prior Regular Board Meeting ([12/08](#))

MOTION: Beau B. moved to approve the minutes, Mary W. seconded.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

B2. Call for Late Additions to Agenda

- Mary W. would like to add an item for the official change to D4.4.2 -- discussion transition treasurer.
- Requested move of D4.1.1 to D3.3

B3. Approve Meeting Agenda

MOTION: Beau B. moved to approve the agenda, Eric R. seconded.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

C. Board Education

C1. Presenter: No education topic for January

Topic: N/A

C2. Next Month Presenter: Bryan Kimbell

Topic: TBD

D. Regular Business, 6:18 p.m.

D1. Consent Agenda (Confirm Consent Designation)

D1.1 Policy Review (i.e. no discussion, if item pulled move to bottom of D):

D1.1.1 - School Policies: [GCKAA](#), [GCQC/GCQD](#)

D1.1.2 - Board Policies: [EL2.0](#), [EL2.1](#)

MOTION: Mary W. moved to approve the policies on the consent agenda,
Bryan K. seconded.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

D2. Review [Strategic Plan](#)

D3. School Director's Report - 6:22pm

- Main Update
 - Transition to Phase 3 learning
 - Liv H: It's still very new
 - Liv H: Student, staff, and teacher feedback seems overwhelmingly positive so far, though it is a significant transition so there are a lot of things and emotions.
 - Liv H: As one might expect there is still some nervousness about COVID, but everyone has been compliant with the additional measures put in place.
 - Liv H: Challenging that teachers are now teaching differently for a 3rd time this year.
 - Liv H: There is a feeling of community, that we are all in this together.
 - Beau: Son ecstatic with the return to school. I am pleased with how the school has handled the difficult topic of remote vs. in-person and corresponding benefits/risks/challenges. CDC guidance released today supports current phase at MSCS.
 - Bryan K: His children are also really glad to be back in person. They hate the COVID aspects of it. Obviously the use of technology isn't what they sought out when they chose a Waldorf school, but they are dealing with it.
 - Mary W: Son sad that he can't interact with his friends the same. Looking forward to seeing how he develops by having assistance in person. Really appreciative for that. Her other son is happy as can be and loves his teacher.

- Rachael S: Glad her son is able to be back at school, and the reduced size has not been a problem.
- Melinda: Her grandkids have been relaxed about the change and excited to be back. Want to give credit to all the preparation by the school to make the transition as easy as possible.
- Eric R: Son wanting to know how soon we can go to phase. Interested to know how enrollment is going.
- Liv H: Enrollment
 - Just finished open enrollment and the lottery.
 - Not much of a wait list on dual-track classes, but waitlists for the single-track classes.
 - Good retention for existing families, but there is always some attrition especially since the earlier part of COVID.
 - The enrollment did not include a question about MSV (Virtual) so we do not have numbers to know what percentage of new families are interested in virtual.
 - Nancy: Hear that enrollment is down across the state.
- COVID
 - Access to KN95 masks is good.
 - Working with Larimer County Health Department.
 - Feel like all their preparations have put them in a good place.
 - Beau: How is the new Swivl technology working?
 - Liv: The Swivl technology only arrived last week so they are still working on leveraging that tech. It is still early and there are growing pains.
 - Liv: Some teachers feel divided in their energy to serve all of their students through various methodologies.
 - Liv: Our teachers have taken the continual change and have done an admirable job. Our teachers are awesome.
 - Bryan: What is the status of vaccinations for teachers and staff
 - Liv: Last she heard it could be available in February
 - Liv: Our organization is signed up.
 - Mary: Heard from the health department that vaccination availability may take longer (into March or April).
 - Liv H: No quarantines so far, but we do have isolation rooms ready.
 - Liv H: Front-gate checks in place to try and keep it that way.
- Health & Safety
 - Hired a 32 hr/wk health technician - Ms. Dulany.
 - Health tech Ms. Dulany and Stephanie Powers working together
 - New school nurse starting in March
- Staff
 - Hired 5 new staff members

- New health tech Sheridan
- 2 new Paras - Maria and Jennifer
- Kindergarten Assistant - Anthony
- Custodian - Carolina
- Some shifts of staff/roles between semesters
 - Hybrid with two teachers teaching from home with an assistant in the classroom to assist.
- Staff surveys are in, so starting to look at what the coming year will look like.
- Program Updates
 - Homeschool enrichment and MSV is still evolving
 - Due to COVID and remote learning enrollment in homeschool enrichment has really dropped.
 - Take stock, understand where interest is, and start to explore the intersection of these to see where to best apply our resources.
- Safety Drills
 - Will need to look different due to circumstances with COVID.
 - Will get information out to the community
- Community Engagement
 - Parent Circle: Has been quiet. It's usually a quiet part of the year
 - Inspiration Friday events have been well received.
- Instructional Hours
 - Some of the requirements have been in flux (exceptions have been made).
 - Next year there could be changes
- Reauthorization
 - AI for Beau: Include Re-Auth./renew charter as discussion item on future Board meeting agendas, also on retreat agendas
 - Previous reauthorization was in 2018.
 - We should begin working on the process next year.
- Facilities
 - Getting back into the school space again it is definitely cozy.
- Misc
 - Jody Swigris was nominated through Townsquare Media for a Teacher Tuesday award! So go vote for her!

D3.1 - MAPS testing results

- Math - not reaching the kind of growth we are hoping for. It seems like the circumstances around COVID have been a factor.
- Beau: How is the MAPS data used? Does it help drive specific plans for students?
 - Liv: Yes, we do use that data to help improve instruction and know what support kids need.

- Last year they began to look at Advanced Learning Plans for students with aptitude in specific areas. Looking at how to use Enrich to help with that process.
- Typically if a student is performing at >95% across a variety of data points.

D3.2 - Potential Fundraiser

- Our mini-bus fundraiser was obviously put to the side with the impact of COVID on fundraisers.
- Hillary and Liv have been discussing if our community is even at a point where a fundraiser makes sense?
- Hillary doesn't have the bandwidth herself to manage a fundraiser.
- Wondering if the Board would be interested in holding a fundraiser this Spring?
 - Seeing how there is not a lot of visibility for what the Board does, would it be an opportunity for the Board to get some additional visibility?
 - Nancy: What about the donations we collected previously for the mini-bus campaign?
 - Eric R: We would need to re-approach the people and organizations that donated those items. Some businesses may no longer be in business. We also need to confirm if people are ok with us using donated items or services towards a different fundraising campaign.
 - Ashley: Is there a specific purpose for a fundraiser, or is it just for fundraising in general?
 - Hillary: There have been a lot of additional expenses, but
 - Nancy: Riversong did their fundraiser this year completely virtually and had their best year yet. Maybe some people are waiting to be asked, and may not be in a situation to give.
 - Eric: Would have to get back into it to really think about what kind of fundraiser might make sense and the effort involved.
 - Bryan: For auctions they have always been interested in some of the unique items/services created/provided by our community.
- If we are interested in a board-driven fundraiser we need to determine that by our next regular board meeting.

D3.3 - [Charter School Board Training: Title IX and Equity Compliance](#)

- The effort to navigate this independently could be substantial.
- We do not have a waiver.
- Reached out to PSD to determine if our staff are covered and having a conversation with them about that. It could be helpful to partner with PSD.

Break 7:28pm - 7:35pm

D4. Committee Updates

D4.1 - Finance Committee Update ([report](#))

D4.4.1 - Transition of officer position for Treasurer

D4.2 - Facilities Committee (Committee still on hold. No updates.¹)

D4.3 - School Accountability Committee Update

- We did not take the CMAS tests this past Spring, and it is possible they will not be doing them again this year.
- Earliest determination would be late February regarding recommendations for CMAS testing (different areas of Math versus Language Arts, etc).
- Next SAC committee meeting 1/27

D4.3.1 - Role and requirements of SAC ([committee information](#))

- Membership, quarterly meetings, minutes, survey's, reporting, recommendations.

D4.4 - Logistics Committee Update ([report](#))

- Beau: Feel that there is no need for an additional survey this year as we have already been doing a quarterly survey.
 - Melinda: Agree with Beau
 - Eric: Agree with Beau
 - No objections.
- Melinda: The survey would be a good topic for one of our retreats.

D4.4.1 - Board Member Candidate Stephanie Cosby - Q&A

D4.5 - Policy Discussion

D4.5.1 - Approve location for posting meeting info:

<https://www.mountainsage.org/about-us/governance/>

MOTION: Bryan K. moved to approve the location to be used for the posting of meeting information in 2021, Melinda. seconded.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

D4.5.2 - PSD Policy Updates (10/13 - 12/30/2020, 15 meetings):

D4.5.2.1 - MSCS Remote Learning Grant Application approved [11/10](#)

D4.5.2.2 - **PSD Resolution** - Revised Graduation Requirements [11/10](#)

D4.5.2.3 - **PSD Resolution** - Priority Vaccination for Teachers/Staff [11/24](#)

D4.5.2.4 - Per [GP3.6](#) Board Committee Assignments updated [11/24](#)

D4.5.2.5 - MSCS Safe Schools Reopening Grant Application approval [12/8](#)

¹ Please see past Facilities Committee reports such as the [9/22 report](#) for more background information.

D4.5.2.6 - CDoE EASI District-led Grant [12/8](#)

D4.5.2.7 - Policy [FF](#) - Naming District Sites and Facilities Adopted [12/8](#)

D4.5.2.8 - Policies [DJ](#), [DJA](#), [DJB](#), [DDA](#), [DJG/DJGA](#) and [DN](#) Revisions Adopted [12/8](#)

- Purchasing, Procurement, Vendor and Property Disposition
- Discussed [11/24](#) - Sole sourcing, exceptions, authority, audit committee.
- MSCS has waivers for DJA, DJB and DN but **not** for DJ, DDA, DJG/DJGA

D4.5.2.9 - Dr. Todd Lambert appointed interim superintendent of PSD [12/30](#)

D4.5.3 - February - Reviewing Board Policies: [EL2.2](#), [EL2.3](#), [EL2.4](#), [EL2.5](#)

D4.5.4 - Added [Sunshine List](#) to board drive for notifications - [C.R.S. 24-6-401 \(7\)](#)

D5. Items of the Month (from [Board calendar](#))

D5.1 - Jan - Agenda item to approve location for posting meeting info

D5.2 - Jan - Review School Director Evaluation Survey ([process](#))

- **AI:** Beau: Put back at the forefront this year. Reviewing the process and will get that process initiated.

D5.3 - Jan - Prepare for February Town Hall

D5.4 - Jan - Send Parent and Faculty Survey to School Director who distributes

D5.5 - Jan - Secure locations for Board retreats

- Melinda: Most places we have used in the past do not have reservations this far out. Have not started the process but will plan to in February.

D5.6 - Feb - Town Hall Meeting, February 9th, 2021

- Hopefully we get some questions from the community.
- Keep the presentations shorter so that we leave room for questions from the community.
- Main subject areas:
 - Hillary: Offered her services to provide tech support for the Town Hall (can help with room entry and organizing questions, assist with MC).
 - **AI:** Eric - E-mail to Beau and Hillary to initiate conversation on the specifics of the meeting facilitation.
 - **AI:** Liv - Town Hall School Update
 - COVID and Phases
 - Will MS Virtual continue next year
 - Parent Communication Tools/Avenues - The Beat
 - Liv: School Accountability / Performance
 - **AI:** Bryan - Town Hall Financials
 - Mention enrollment for next year
 - Promote grant money receipts
 - (Strategic Plan as source)
 - Enrollment - Recruiting by word-of-mouth works best
 - **AI:** Eric - Create an agenda

D5.7 - Feb - First Draft of Budget

D5.8 - Feb - Summarize Parent and Faculty Survey Results

D5.9 - Feb - Director Evaluation feedback solicited and collected

D6. Scheduling Matters

D7. Miscellaneous

D7.1 - Location of board meetings

- Stay virtual for the time being.

- Re-evaluate later as conditions change.

E. Closing, 8:41 p.m.

E1. List Assigned Action Items

E2. Review [Upcoming School Calendar Events](#), Board Member Attendance

E3. Call for Final Comments

E4. Move to Adjourn

E5. Closing Verse read by Nancy Sexton

Steadfast I 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.