



Community Update

February 12, 2024

6:30 -7:30 p.m.

Overview

“Receive the children in reverence,
educate them in love, and send
them forth in freedom.”

— Rudolf Steiner

- Welcome & Mission
- Board Introductions
- State of the School
 - Finances
 - Facility
 - Academics
 - Community Circle
 - Governance
- Serving on the Board & Elections
- Q&A



OUR MISSION

Mountain Sage Community School offers Waldorf-inspired, arts-integrated education, fully incorporating sustainable living practices into student learning. Each child is 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.

Board Overview



Board Overview

- Volunteers with diverse backgrounds who love our school
- Supporting a common mission and vision
- Governance, not Operations
- What do we do?
 - Meetings - Typically 2 per month during the school year, plus 2 strategic planning sessions (retreats) each year
 - Strategic Planning
 - Policies and Procedures
 - Budgets, Financials, Audits, and Fundraising
 - Facilities
 - School Performance & School Accountability Committee
 - School Director - Selecting, Supporting, & Evaluating Performance
 - Relationship to PSD and Charter Authorization
 - Recruiting and Training future Board members

Board Introductions

Bryan Kimbell

President & Treasurer

- Twins in Ms Wixson's 5th Grade class
- 5th year on the MSCS Board
- Board Treasurer since 2020-2021 school year
- Board President starting this school year



Board Introductions

Jennifer Rault

Vice President

- Elected in 2022
- VP since the beginning of this year
- I value the arts-integrated, whole child approach and the community-driven experience at Mountain Sage. The school is such a special offering to children, families, and the Fort Collins community.



Board Introductions

Stephane Cosby

Secretary

- Son in Ms. Glaser's 2nd Grade class
- Fell in love with Waldorf philosophy working on a Biodynamic farm in the 2000's
- We chose to move to Fort Collins from Estes Park specifically for Mountain Sage
- This is the last year of my elected three year term; Secretary since June 2023



Board Introductions

Chris West

- Daughter in Annie Addington's second grade
- Son in Gail Spinden's fourth grade
- Second year of my elected three year term
- Served on the Facilities Committee and School Accountability Committee (SAC).
- Currently helping the Development/Fundraising Committee



Board Introductions

MacKenzie Mushel

- Daughter in 1st grade Forest School Homeschool Enrichment program
- The unique combination and commitment to educating the whole-child, fostering relationships, community, and sustainability brought us to Mountain Sage. And Forest School is MAGICAL!
- First year of my elected three year term
- Currently serving on the Governance Committee and School Accountability Committee (SAC), first year as SAC chair



Board Introductions

Troy Wixson

- Son in Jessica Wolfe's first grade.
- Appointed to the board for the remainder of this school year, and will be up for election in April.
- I love that Mountain Sage focuses on whole-child education with emphasis on fostering creativity, cultivating relationships, and ensuring that the curriculum is aligned with childhood development.
- Involved in the Governance Committee and SAC committee.



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School Update

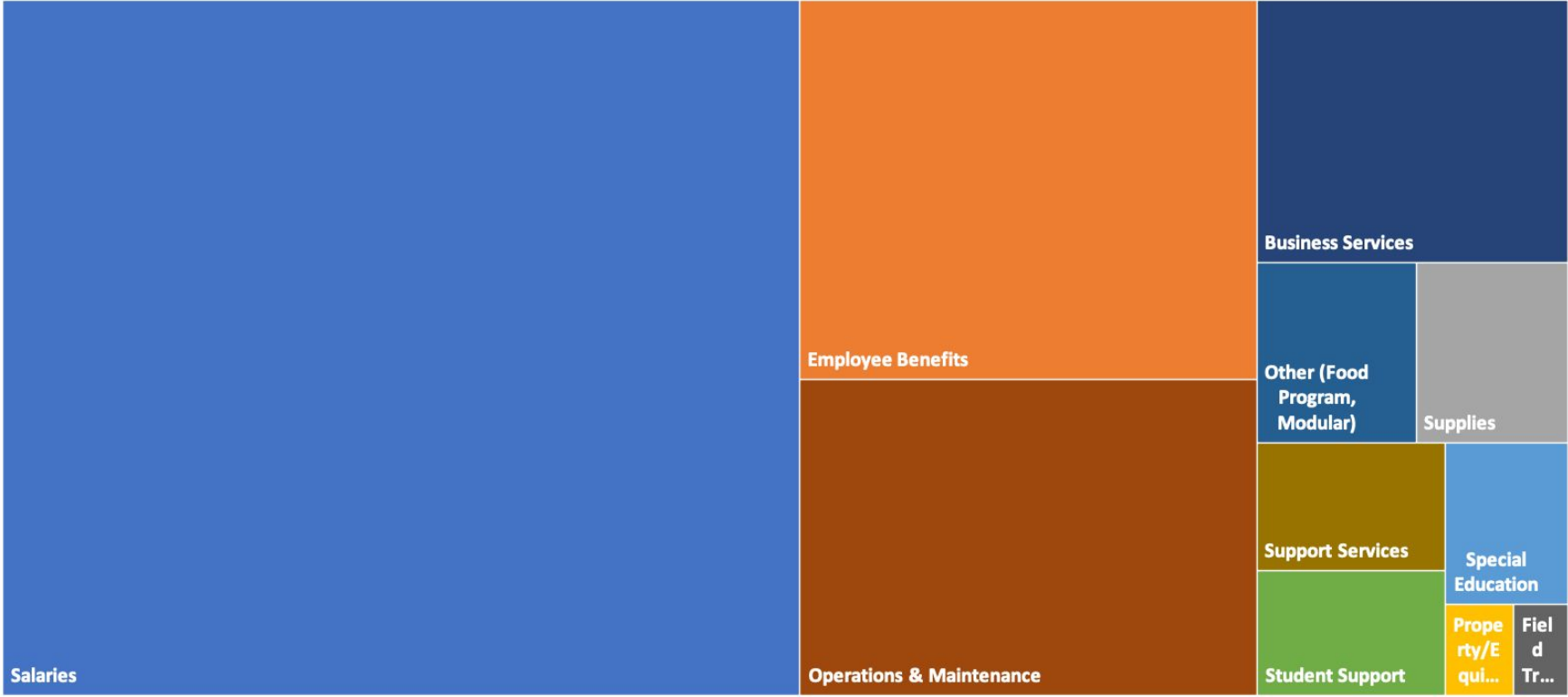
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Financial Update

2023/24 MSCS ANNUAL BUDGETED EXPENSES



2023/24 MSCS REVENUE SOURCES

■ Local ■ State ■ Federal

**89% of revenue is tied
directly to student count**

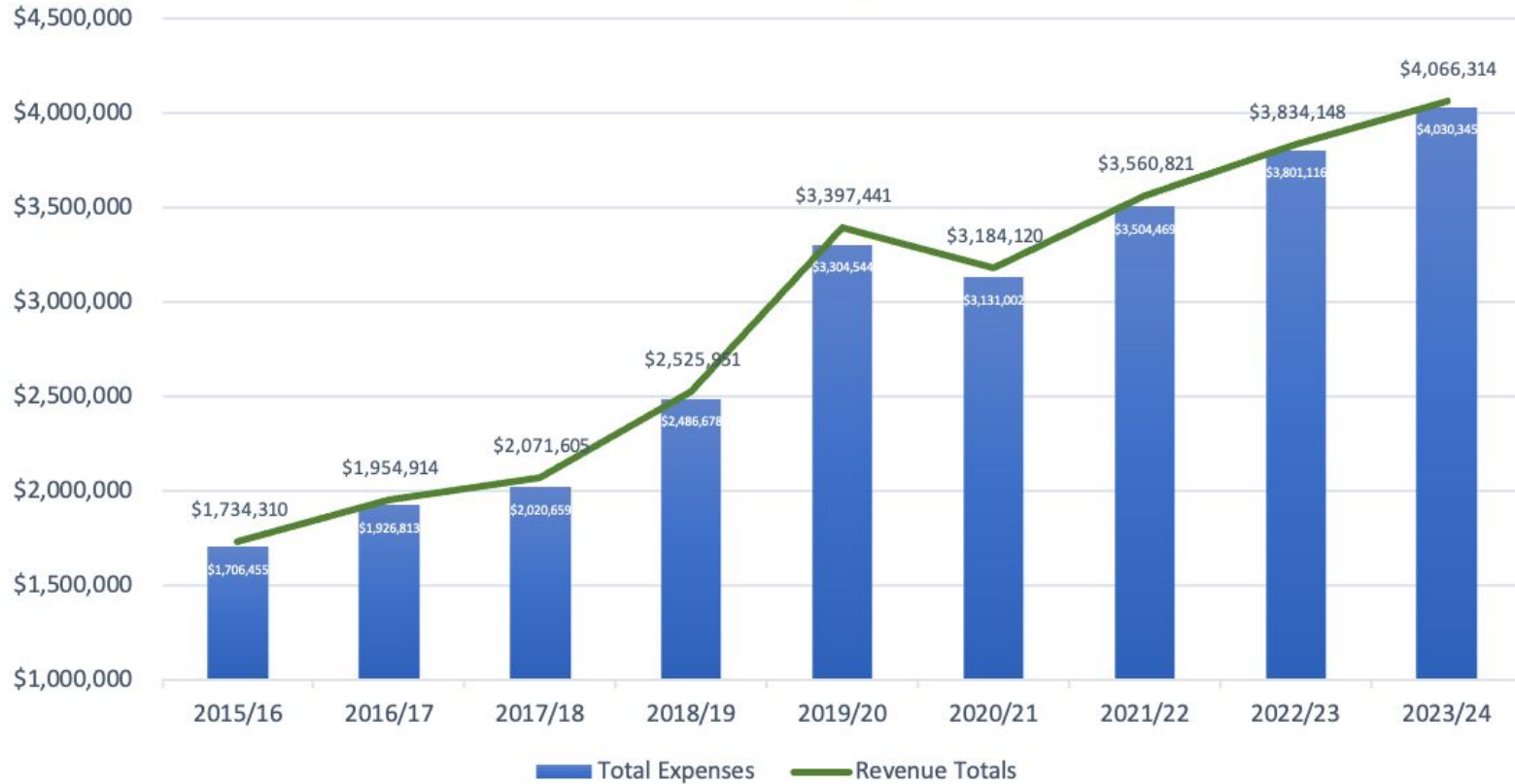
PPR + Mill Levy Tax

Local

State

Federal

Revenues vs Expenses



YOY:

Expenses
up 6.03%

Revenues
up 6.06%

Total Revenue vs. Enrollment (FTE)



Total Expenses vs. Enrollment (FTE)



School Financials Update - Key Takeaways

1. MSCS is in a strong financial position
2. Expenses will continue to go up regardless of enrollment
3. State funding (PPR) meets basic needs, but as a charter school it does not meet ALL of our needs
 - State funding does NOT extend to facilities, special programs, or student support services
 - MSCS needs to build student count and fundraise to continue building the Waldorf-inspired learning environment
4. Every student COUNTS - in more ways than one!



Facility

11th Year of MSCS

- Chartered as a 2-track school but what does that mean?
- Current two track classes
 - Second grade
 - Fifth grade
 - Seventh grade
- No more room to grow in our current building



Recap of Timeline

- School building
 - Purchased the current building in April 2022
 - Bond for purchase of building and expanding
 - Expansion efforts halted in Summer of 2023

- Playground
 - Currently we lease the playground and school garden land
 - Owners are not willing to sell the land or offer a long term lease





Academics

School Accountability Committee (SAC)

- Offer guidance on academics, budget, school culture, and other areas.
 - Utilize school performance data, survey results, participate in development and monitoring of Unified Improvement Plan (UIP)
 - SAC webpage link with resources - [HERE](#)
- School Performance Framework (SPF) and Unified Improvement Plan (UIP)
 - SPF “Performance” rated school - the highest rating for public charter schools - [Link](#)
 - UIP - [Link](#)
 - Targeting Middle School Math improvement - academic supports, teacher development and collaboration
 - Ongoing development of K-3 literacy - met previous year target for reading benchmarks

Academics Cont.

- State assessment data demonstrates areas needing improvement, accountability, and inform development of the UIP.
- MAPS & CMAS testing this Spring
 - Participation is important to our continued accreditation as a public school
- Gifted & Talented Program
 - Partnering with PSD for resources
 - COGAT testing for 2nd graders

SAC meetings

Enlivened committee with parent and faculty participation!

- Community Survey
 - [2022-2023 results](#)
 - [2022-2023 results progress report](#)
 - Next survey in MARCH
- Meeting monthly from Th 8:35-10am at MSCS - see [calendar](#)
 - NEXT mtg. 2/29

What is the SAC?

The School Accountability Committee (SAC) discusses and recommends priorities for school funds, important school culture and parent partnership issues, and participates in the preparation of the school's Unified Improvement Plan.

Important Links and Documents

Overarching Documents

- [Mountain Sage Unified Improvement plan](#)
- [Mountain Sage Performance Ratings and Framework](#)
- [MSCS School Accountability Reference Guide](#)
- [CDE's website](#) to learn more about school and district accountability committees

Community Survey

Each year, the School Accountability Committee creates and sends a community survey with the goal of gauging overall school health and community needs, and to assess the viability of certain programs, whether in place or as possibilities for the future. The SAC then reviews the data and makes recommendations to the administration, who uses the feedback in future planning. Below you will find links to the survey results and to the administrative progress report. Please download the PDF reports for full functionality.

[2022-23 Community Survey Results](#)

[2022-23 Community Survey Progress Report](#)

Who is on the SAC?

This vital school committee is composed of dedicated parent and community member volunteers, the School Director, and other staff. Our current SAC members are:

MacKenzie Musher, Board Representative (Committee Chair)

Josh Greene, parent

Troy Wixson, parent

Alisa Hodges, parent

Lica Mazzetto, parent

Liv Helmericks, School Director

Anna Murphy, Integrated Service Teacher

Hillary Mizia, Communications and Operations Specialist

MSCS parents and staff and members of the greater Fort Collins community are encouraged to join the SAC. New positions are available each spring, and terms are two years in length. A member can serve no more than two consecutive terms (4 years), however a member can return to serve again in future years. **Interested in serving on the SAC? [Send us an email!](#)**

2023-24 Meeting Schedule

September 26th, 8:35-10am

November 28th, 8:35-10am

December 21st, 8:35-10am

January 18th, 8:35-10am

★ February 29th, 8:35-10am ★

March 21st, 8:35-10am

April 25th, 8:35-10am





Community Circle

Community Circle

- Three new Community Liaisons:
 - Andi Brunson-Williams, Jackie Thiel, and Julianna Whitney
- Meetings will be held Fridays, and may move to accommodate other schedules
- More information available:
 - Community Circle page on our website
 - Join the ParentSquare group on the mobile app (or online)
 - Contact one of our liaisons directly



The background is a soft-focus landscape painting. The top half shows a sky with a gradient from light yellow to pale orange. Below the sky, there are layers of rolling hills or mountains, rendered in soft, muted colors of pink, purple, and blue. The bottom half of the image shows a body of water, likely a lake or a wide river, with a blue and greenish tint. The overall style is impressionistic and serene.

Governance

Board Positions & Elections

- Although we have recently received a lot of interest from the community to join the board, we have more spots to fill.
- Spring elections are coming up in April
 - Please vote!
- If you are interested in joining, let us know!
 - We may appoint some members



Joining the Board

- Requirements for joining the Board
 - Willingness to serve the MSCS Community
 - Volunteer verified
 - Attend 3 board meetings
 - We encourage anyone interested in joining to reach out, regardless of background or profession
- Bonus skills the school could benefit from on the Board
 - Finance/Treasurer experience or willingness to learn
 - Grant Writing and Donor Development





Q&A



Thank You Mountain Sage Community!