



Mountain Song Community School
School Accountability Committee (SAC) Meeting
7/22/2015; 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Attendance

Raj Solanki (Director), Debie Bennet (community), Nate Siebert (Parent), Shannon Lang (teacher), Sarah White (staff), Mary Ann Corey (parent)

Roles and Responsibilities:

Raj Solanki began the meeting by discussing the SAC's role and responsibilities as outlined in the Charter School Governing Board Training Handbook. Some notable discussion points are below:

- The SAC operates as a sub-committee to the board and makes recommendations for the school's accreditation plan.
- The SAC provides accountability for the school's governance, curriculum implementation, finance, management, and school performance.
- The SAC will need to establish clear procedures for obtaining the data and information needed to make specific recommendations for the school's accreditation plan.
- ElizaBeth Wildemaan is developing a teacher evaluation form. She can assist the SAC with monitoring and measuring teacher training (i.e., Waldorf training, etc.) and performance.

Recruiting Members:

MSCS posted the notice for the SAC seeking new members on its website. Raj will include the notice in the newsletter to parents. Stacy French will serve on the SAC as a representative for the Parent Council and Kate Pettey will serve as an interim member until permanent members are found.

Corrective Action Report to CSI:

Mary Ann completed the draft report. The report can be used as a template for quarterly data collection and review. Mary Ann will finalize the draft and send it out to the SAC members for approval. The MSCS Board will review the report on Thursday's Board of Directors meeting.

Review of Climate Survey Results:

Members were provided with the results from the annual climate survey. More discussion and review is needed before recommendations can be made. A summary of the survey results will be posted on the website for public review. Notable discussion points are below:

- Upon quick review, communication and administration were identified as issue areas. The SAC discussed the need to communicate with families more, but from fewer sources as to limit confusion and duplication.
- The school needs to be mindful in areas of exclusivity – behavior problems, people of different cultures/socioeconomic backgrounds – and should provide more opportunities for families to learn more about Waldorf methods and MSCS policies and curriculum (e.g. parent education nights).
- Parent Council could be involved in parent education and outreach and that the school should reestablish its community outreach through Waldorf education workshops/meetings.
- It was suggested that a member from the Center for Anthroposophy could talk about how to do child studies with the faculty and a representative from the Mountain Phoenix cohort going through the certification program could discuss the Foundations Studies with the MSCS teachers.

Financial Update from Director/Discussion re Programs:

The Board will decide at its next meeting whether or not to allocate \$50,000 after beginning of school if the projected enrollment numbers are met. Raj asked the SAC members about potential uses for these funds should they be approved. The teachers' schedules are very full now that some specials classes have been cut. The group agreed that a music program would be very beneficial to bring back. A possibility would be to bring two part-time positions for upper and younger grades. It will be important to show continuity and stability in our programs for the parents and to show that our special programs help improve our student achievement.

Raj is exploring the possibility of partnering with AspenPointe, which has offered to provide educational/therapeutic music and movement related services, such as drum and/or yoga based classes that focus on building self regulation, self expression, and other pro-social skills, to Mountain Song. AspenPointe receives reimbursement based on how many families receive Medicaid.

Raj is also investigating other Waldorf curative therapy programs and a program that helps students gain literacy skills by monitoring and improving eye movement and tracking skills. The program would screen every child, perhaps as a part of the annual vision screening, and provides computer-based software programs that improve students' eye movement and reading skills. The program could be paid with from READ monies based on last year's READ numbers.

Raj invited SAC members to join staff to attend the Colorado Springs Charter Academy (a CSI school of distinction) to learn more about how another CSI school operates. This meeting and other such meetings with established schools should be used as measurements toward school improvement.

The Colorado Springs Charter Academy outsources a company called SpringBoard for its afterschool program. SpringBoard provides robust "inclusive" and "exclusive" electives (e.g.,

ballet, dance, academics, etc.) designed around each school's specific curriculum and philosophies and takes care of licensure and background checks for aftercare staff. As indicated in the climate survey results, aftercare is an area of concern for many parents and this unique program can be a draw for new enrollment. Raj will survey parents regarding their interest in utilizing this company for aftercare and will meet with the SpringBoard area coordinator this coming Friday.

Next steps:

- Shannon will reach out to MTN Phoenix to discuss having member to talk to staff/teachers about the foundation studies program (through Center of Anthroposophy).
- Mary Ann will send the finalized Corrective Action Report to the SAC members.
- MSCS Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, July 23 at 6:00 pm.
- The SAC's next meeting is scheduled for September 14th. The SAC may reconvene before then, if needed.

Adjourned at 11:19 am