

THE SOURCE

Mountain Song Community School Board of Directors' Newsletter

Board Members:

Jennifer Barnes,
President

Shannon Root,
Vice President

Michael Katzenberg,
Secretary

Greg Augspurger,
Treasurer

Melanie Chadwick

Sandra Johnson-Benning

Contact the Board:

board@mountainsongschool.com

Agendas & Minutes:

[mountainsongschool.com/
about/governance](http://mountainsongschool.com/about/governance)

Next Meeting:

Thursday, August 20th @
6pm

Regular Board Meeting Thursday, July 23, 2015 6:00 pm

The highpoint of the meeting was the Director's Report that clearly shows how our new director, Raj Solanki, has managed to get the school back on track. First, he has addressed the Notice of Concerns from CSI by hiring Yvonne Peru to work with Lauren Martinez on programming for ELL and Special Education students, and he has completed remedies for school safety and the teacher performance evaluation process.

The Board approved the Teacher Evaluation Policy and is confident that it will enhance student outcomes and help teacher retention by ensuring that staff performance is fairly assessed using clear rubrics.

Raj reported that we are on track to meet our enrollment goals, but we still have spaces for additional students in grades two, three, and four. Since enrollment determines the availability of funds for growing programs and Specials such as music and Cooking Arts, more students mean more money available for staff and materials. Word of mouth is the best form of advertising, so we appreciate all your support and testimonials!

The results of the recent survey on a proposal to use Springboard as our Aftercare provider were announced. Sixty-percent of the responses were positive, while others expressed concerns that Springboard was not sufficiently "Waldorf." Raj explained that Springboard tailors their program to the needs and requirements of the school, and their fee schedule of \$15 for three hours makes it a less expensive alternative to the previous \$7 an hour charge for Aftercare. If we choose Springboard as our Aftercare provider, we could make after school activities as Waldorf-oriented as we want at a more reasonable price. In order to qualify for the program, we would need to have at least fifteen students enrolled full-time in Aftercare.

Our new Pedagogical Director, ElizaBeth Wildemaan discussed the new math curriculum that she has selected: Investigations for K-5 and Connected Mathematics for 6-8. You can check out more information about these programs at the following links:

<http://investigations.terc.edu/families/about-investigations/>

<https://connectedmath.msu.edu/>

Regarding our committee updates, SAC (School Advisory Committee) submitted a report to the Board on 7/22/15. SAC now has all the legislative mandated members and the CSI "corrective action notice" has been completed. However, they are still looking for more parent members. The SAC 2015-2016 meeting dates and times are posted on our website. Dates and times for all other mandatory SAC meetings are set, and SAC minutes and agendas are posted on our website. A summary of the results of the climate survey will be posted on our website.

The Board reviewed the Teacher and Student Assignment Policy that SAC created and decided to send proposed amendments back to them for their approval. The final version of the policy will be voted on in a future Board meeting. The new Parent handbook was approved, although sections may be fine-tuned during future meetings as well.

Governance support proposals from three consultants were also examined, and the Board voted to pursue a contract with the League of Charter Schools.

We are still seeking to add more Board members, particularly someone from Parent Council. If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact Michael Katzenberg at mkatzenberg@mountainsongschool.com for an application.

Finally, we are extremely pleased to announce that Shannon Lang, one of our third grade teachers, just earned her certificate from the Rudolf Steiner College, making her our first fully Waldorf-trained teacher. Congratulations Shannon!