



Board of Directors Board Meeting

January 23, 2024 6:00pm at Mountain Song Community School

Minutes

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71874817156?pwd=V2c1N1BzeGNNcHJlEV3RsV25PRENSZz09>

Mission: Mountain Song Community School, as a member of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, is a public charter school that utilizes developmentally appropriate holistic education to nurture the body, mind, and heart of each student.

Attendees: Teresa W., Drew B., Katie H., Becky M., Jacob C., Chugrad M., Ashley P.

Absentees: none

Public: Gary P., Lori K., Alisia and Kyle, Courtney G., Kim B., Kirsten M., Emmalee S., Cori K., Stephana S., Ron P., Cambria D., Carrie F.

6:00 I. Convene Meeting (check quorum)

- a. **Welcome/Reading of Mission Statement**
- b. **Check In**

6:15 II. Approve Agenda

6:02 Drew moves to approve agenda. Chugrad seconds. Approved unanimously.

6:16 III. Consent Agenda (associated items in Meeting Folder)

- a. Approve Minutes from 12/19/2023 Board Meeting
- b. Approve Minutes from 1/9/2023 Special Board Meeting
- c. Approve Minutes from 1/15/2023 Special Board Meeting
- d. Acknowledge receipt of December 2023 Financial Report

6:03 Chugrad moves to approve consent agenda. Ashley seconds. Approved unanimously.

6:25 IV. Public Comment - The Public Comment period is an opportunity for the public to provide comments, opinions, or observations directly to Board members. It is not intended as a forum for debate or discussion and each speaker is limited to 2 minutes. Protocol prevents board members from addressing speakers or their comments during the public comment section of the meeting. The Board will hear comments and may direct action or follow up immediately or in a separate session as appropriate. Please refrain from personal attacks or the naming of any individuals. Please refrain from airing grievances as grievances require a separate protocol.

6:04 No public comment.

6:40 V. Continuing Business

- a. Board Training Module

6:04 Becky- trainings- share thoughts at beginning of meeting, starting in February. Continue to put notes in the matrix. Communicating with CSI to help with questions and education. We will have more guest speakers at meeting moving forward.

b. Charter Contract Renewal Progress Update

6:06 Becky- approved 5 year renewal contract. Teresa- approved by the CSI Board. Will send contract to Eric Hall for review. Choice- February or March to go before CSI Board- we can aim for March CSI meeting and approve during our February meeting. Will reach out to Tom at CSI for timeline and will send Board update.

c. Executive Director Monthly Report

6:12 Teresa- Updates: Tomorrow night- Art Night and Middle School Information Night; Submitted December count- 17% of students on IEP's- working on financing regarding this (state average- 11%); Free and reduced lunch- 47%- did receive more paperwork this year- helps with accurate reporting (compared to district- reflected in PPR amounts); BEST grant- design drawings delivered- will send to sub-contractors- expect construction on addition next October, HVAC- summer of 2025, open in fall 2025; Bullying program- Kim Butler trained- pulling committee together to train staff next fall- getting survey from students; Report in folder. Chugrad- question regarding staff resignations (kinder and paraprofessional). Teresa- have hired new paraprofessionals, Andrea looking to replace last paraprofessional. Laura Rocca- taken Kinder class as long term substitute- Kinder assistant and float remain in class.

d. Committee Reports

6:25 Becky- reports in folder. Drew- finance committee update- Teresa and Shannon at G&G worked to help budget- report breaks down changes. Met with Andi Denton (CSI)- discussed putting reserve money in trust- will review later. Jacob- amazing job, very impressed with work on budget- did not have to cut any salaries or positions. Teresa- includes high-needs grant (will be writing) and fundraising- no wiggle room this year, next year is looking better with Mill levy equalization and budget stabilization funds. Everyone can help work on enrollment. Drew- focus on marketing- 5 year extension, BEST grant. Ashley- let public know about importance in school funding of filling out free and reduced lunch forms. Teresa- lost front office worker- the rest of the year not re-hiring- spreading out work.

e. Alliance for Public Waldorf Education Update

6:34 Teresa- We are members of the Alliance. New initiative, developing and full school (3 levels). Liz Beavens- came to work with school on Waldorf principles January 4th and 5th - challenges and action items- TLC writing up summary from training- will work with faculty and write up report- will bring to Board for input to review/add to- send to Alliance Board. We are looking to move from a developing member to full member school. If considered a full member- we can say we are a public Waldorf school.

f. Initiative for School in D20 Update

6:39 Teresa- interest from families that live in D20 looking for alternative school similar to MSCS. Bill Knous- Colorado League of Charter Schools- brought information about replicating school- met with MSCS admin/staff and interested parties from D20 to discuss. Soonest- fall of 2026- need steering committee from interested parties. Long term prospect- want to keep on our radar.

g. Vote to Approve Revised FY24 MSCS Budget

6:44 Drew moves to approve revised FY24 MSCS budget. Chugrad seconds. Discussion-brought up budget to highlight changes. Approved unanimously.

h. Review of Schedule 1-4 of Continuing Disclosure Policy** (MUST COMPLETE)

6:58 Teresa- submits to UMB bank- they post on EMMA. We must disclose status of our school- compliance regarding bonds. Working on reporting school data- will submit this week. Important to keep on our radar.

i. Vote to Approve Board Motion - where/when we will post Board agendas (Sunshine Law annual JAN requirement)

7:05 Becky- when/where: “The MSCS Board of Directors designates the front door of the Mountain Song Community School Building, located at 2904 West Kiowa Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80904, as the official location for posting notices of Board Meetings in 2024. In addition, the MSCS Board also designates the Governance webpage of the MSCS website, <https://mountainsongschool.org/school-board> as another official location for posting notices of Board meetings in 2024. In accordance with Colorado Open Meetings Law, notices will be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.” Drew moves to approve motion. Jacob seconds. Approved unanimously.

- j. Vote to approve Lori Kemmler as Teacher Leadership Council Board Representative for a one-year term.

7:09 Becky- Adam Wright was our first TLC representative- thank you for service and insight. Chugrad moves. Ashley seconds. Discussion: Lori- served in leadership positions- pleased to represent staff and TLC on Board. 3rd grade Ebony teacher- 2nd year at MSCS, 25th year teaching. Served on many committees. Very involved with kids, families and staff. Approved unanimously. Katie will reach out to Lori to schedule Board orientation. Teresa- this is an ex-officio, non-voting position like mine.

- k. Review Strategic Plan

7:14 Becky- reviewed strategic plan- discussion. Review goals quarterly. Reviewed finances. Enrollment- did fall in homeschool online program numbers- we can review enrollment goals. Foundation non-profit- will reach out to continue process of setting the foundation up. Fundraising- think on during Board retreat. \$20,000 for next fall for cold lunch program. Academics- testing data from MAPS and Dibels- lead to reading/math interventions if needed. Lori- spoke about this at TLC meeting- need more staffing to help with testing, and continue to look at Alliance standards to move students forward. Special education department- contracting with service company, Kim Butler now working with students with 504's. Strategic Dashboard- Katie will reach out to Greg to work on this. Reviewed high quality Board- proactive with succession planning- working on. Lori- teachers would be interested in seeing results from parents survey- so teachers could see improvement. Teresa- Board members pull out goals that are meaningful for them to work on.

- l. Vote to Approve Executive Director's Goals

7:41 Teresa- goals follow strategic plan. Reviewed. Chugrad moves. Drew seconds. Approved unanimously.

- m. Executive Director Mid-Year Check-In – EDSEC (Executive Director Support & Evaluation Committee)

7:45 Becky- will be reaching out to Ashley with date for Executive Committee. Will schedule with Katie and Teresa for EDSEC meeting- meet for check in and succession planning.

- n. Action Item Review

7:46 Reviewed and updated action items.

7:15 VI. New Business

- a. Vote to Approve Moving Reserve Funds into an Interest-Bearing Account – Drew

8:01 Becky- motion then will discuss. Jacob moves. Drew seconds. Drew- reserve funds being held- can put into an account to earn interest. Will be \$500,000 moved- will work with G&G to find best account. Will bring it back to the Board if needed. Banks- made for educational trusts and will cover full amount- PDPA (public deposit protection act).

Drew moves to amend motion to: Approve moving up to \$500,000 from reserve funds into a PDPA backed interest bearing account. Jacob seconds. Approved unanimously.

Becky-call to vote: Approved unanimously.

8:00 **IX. Adjourn Meeting**

8:13 Chugrad moves to adjourn meeting. Jacob seconds. Approved unanimously.

Upcoming Dates Review

- a. Upcoming MSCS Staff Meeting: Thursdays 3:45-4:45 pm
- b. Next Board Meeting: February 20, 2024
- c. Parent Circle Meeting:
- d. Governance and Policy Committee: 4th Monday at 4:00 pm
- e. Family Engagement Committee (SAC):
- f. Fundraising Committee: TBD
- g. Executive Director Support and Evaluation Committee: TBD
- h. Executive Committee: February 7th, 10:00 am
- i. Finance Committee: February 9, 2024
- j. DEI/Multicultural Committee: