



## Board of Directors - Regular Monthly Meeting

*September 18, 2014 6:00 – 8:00 pm*

2904 W. Kiowa St., Colorado Springs, CO 80904

Room #17 on upper level

### **MINUTES – APPROVED**

1. Call to Order – 6:00 – 6:10
  - a. Present – Dr. Evelyn Cortez-Ford, Laurie Ristig, Rita Issagholian, Dr. Blair Cano, Scott Levy, Grian McFadden, Sandra Johnson-Benning, Melanie Chadwick, Erin Bay, Angela Wolcott, Jack Roberts, Prairie Adams, James McDonald, Kalysta McClaghry
  - b. Check in & read Mission and Vision Statements
2. Approval of August 21, 2014 Minutes – Motion to approve minutes as-is. Motion: Scott Levy, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Grian McFadden. Motion Passes.
3. Public Comment ( 3 min per speaker) - none
4. Operational Business
  - a. Director's Report
    - i. School Improvement – We are a turnaround school based on academic growth gaps from the TCAP scores (see handout). Evelyn is highly experienced in this area, and knows how to do this work creating a Unified Improvement Plan (UIP). This is a three-year process. She has a timeline in place, and will be organizing meetings with the SAC in order to find how we can improve. Parents will be notified (see handout), and this will be addressed in a town-hall meeting. Many Waldorf charter schools are on turnaround status for the first couple of years because of the early transition from public school methods to Waldorf-methods and curriculum. Poor attendance for many students also played a part in the low scores. Rita has an appointment with the director of a Waldorf-methods charter in Irvine, CA who also experienced turnaround status, and is now thriving. She will consult with him on how to meet the needs of individual children and meet the standards of the state while staying true to our Waldorf roots.
    - ii. Community Development –
      - 1) Community - Upcoming September events: Voluntea, movie night, Coronado Parade (with a Goat Float!), Volunteer Orientation, and a Parent Council Meeting.
      - 2) Development – Stories of Mountain Song had its first \$1000 pledge from THRIVE Health Systems! The Development Council has met and had an intro meeting. Every session will be a

working session moving towards specific goals. We have also linked to a passive fundraising opportunity with AmazonSmile.com. They will donate .05% of all purchases to Mountain Song (see handout for more details).

- 3) The board voiced concern for focusing fundraising on Waldorf certification and other outside Waldorf training for teachers. Laurie will begin researching costs and creating a budget and proposal for potential funders and grants.
- iii. Aftercare program – A new Program Manual Draft has been created by Erin Bay (see handout). In order to forward the licensing process, Erin has been proactive in scheduling inspections, and we are looking at approx 60 days before licensing is in place. The application is completed, and will be submitted tomorrow.
- iv. Strings program – We are out of compliance with “Highly Qualified” in terms of our strings teacher. A bachelor’s degree is a requirement of CO charter school teachers, and cannot be waived. This was not an issue last year because we were K-6<sup>th</sup>, but because we now have 7<sup>th</sup> grade the requirements have changed. Parents will be notified via letter, and we will be actively recruiting a new strings teacher.
- v. Enrollment – Class pictures will be taken on the October 1<sup>st</sup> count day as an incentive to ensure kids are at school that day.
- b. Financial report
  - i. There are two budget handouts; a detailed version and a truncated version. If we continue to stay on track as we have, we will have a good surplus to carry us through next year. The Finance Committee’s next projects are to create an accurate monthly cash-flow, update the website to create a page devoted to financial transparency, and create a late payment policy for students who forget their lunch. Jack will start working on Care for spring and summer break, which could bring in more revenue.

## 5. Committee Reports

- a. Facilities Committee – We need to be prepared to purchase a property in the near future. Lincoln and Whittier may be offered in the very near future. Laurie will attend the Charter School Policy & Facility Summit in early October. Priorities for properties will be compiled, and staff will be consulted at the next faculty meeting.
- b. Other active committees – Postponed until next month
- c. Proposal for Policy & Procedures Committee – Postponed until next month

## 6. Board report and action

- a. Non-Violent Communication training – Melanie will schedule the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the training.
- b. Administration/Board communication – Some communication is not being responded to. If an email comes in, please try to respond in 24-48 hours, even if

it just means saying you'll get back to them later. Board meetings also need to be added to the school events calendar.

- c. Waldorf certification – Postponed until next month.
  - d. Staff and Parent Handbooks – Postponed until next month
  - e. Board Fundamentals & update re on line board training modules- Postponed until next month.
  - f. Study of charter application and charter school governing board handbook – Postponed until next month.
8. Adjournment
- g. Remaining Board meetings – 10/16/2014; 11/20/2014; 1/15/2014; 2/19/2014; 3/19/2014; 4/16/2014; 5/21/2014; 6/18/2014. Blair will not be present in October's meeting.
  - h. Motion to adjourn at 9:31pm. Motion: Melanie Chadwick, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Laurie Ristig. Motion passes.