



Board of Directors March 2020 Work Session

March 3, 2020, 6:00pm at Mountain Song Community School

Minutes

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: Tina H., Scott D., Alexandra K., Aubrey F., Dan K., Teresa W., Bill B., Jamyoung D., Laurel S., Sarah K., Hilary H.

Absentees: none

Public: Amber-Joy T.

6:00 **I. Convene Meeting** Convene 6:00

a. **Welcome**

b. **Reading of Mission Statement**

6:25 **II. Public Comment** - Time limited to 2 minutes per speaker. Opportunity for public to provide comments, opinions, or observations direct to Board members. Please refrain from personal attacks or airing grievances: will refer all in attendance to the Mountain Song grievance policy for information. Not intended as a forum for debate or discussion. Board will hear comments and may direct action or follow up immediately or in a separate session as appropriate.

Amber-Joy: Provided three verbal comments with written submissions:

- (1) As a public Waldorf school, I realize we have to make some sacrifices for the state funding we receive. However, I feel that too many of these sacrifices are being made in the name of state testing. No state test is based on child development and Waldorf education is. MSCS has an exception for the way we teach reading, because we teach from a developmental perspective. Can we get the same exception for math? The Waldorf Math program which we have been using (Making Math Meaningful) has only been used for 2 years in elementary and not with fidelity. If we trained all of our staff in the same waldorf Math method would we see the same learning curve that we see in reading over the grades? Wouldn't it take 4 years to see the full results? To raise these test scores wouldn't it be more prudent to teach the children the science of test taking and how to use the calculators the test allows? Teachers, administrators and parents have fought to keep the Mountain Song curriculum Waldorf. I am asking now that we stay true to our Waldorf principles. The math curriculum in the middle school being taught right now, for the first time CK12 is common core. I strongly oppose this curriculum. With an open mind I have observed it's effects on my middle school student and her class. I am seeing a Level of confusion and frustration I have never seen before. One might be tempted to say Waldorf math has come under fire and criticism recently, wouldn't it then be more prudent to switch to a math curriculum based on development instead of the common core curriculum the state is pushing?
- (2) At the last board meeting 2 board committees were discussed and voted on, the grant committee and the Charter renewal committee. I was surprised to see changes made to these committees with such speed and no consultation. 501c3 status is for entities that serve the public. The public and stake holders should be able to weigh in on these changes. I am disappointed that as a member of the Charter renewal committee I was not consulted in the decision to change the very committee I'm on. Again, I am asking in order to serve the community at large, these important changes be handed to the committees we have, for feedback. Please consider including more stakeholders in these decisions that affect all of us. Thank you for your service,
- (3) I have spent a considerable amount of time educating myself on the inner workings of Mountain Song Community School and it's board. In the upcoming season the board will evaluate the ELT and the ELT will evaluate the

Mountain song staff. I have reviewed the rubric and goals for which both are held to and I am disappointed to see that the community is left out of these evaluations. One of the most important relationships outside of staff and student body is staff and parent. The ability of the ELT to relate to the staff and parent body is of the utmost importance. Please consider bringing the community to the same table and allowing this valuable feedback to be a part of these evaluations. Thank you for your time and service,

6:40 **III. Continuing Business (no votes during work session)**

- a. Board Training Module
 - i. Module 22: Communication

Conducted CDE Board training module on Communication toward the end of the meeting. Positive reception.

- b. Policy Review and Discussion:
 - i. Communications Policy

Not reviewed in interest of time.

- c. Board Home and Document Management Training (10 minutes)

No training conducted at this meeting in interest of time.

- d. Charter Renewal Process Update

Bill reviewed plan and timetable for Charter Renewal process. The “ticker” hasn’t actually started yet; will start with release on 2020 Charter Renewal Handbook in March. Bill with check with Ryan Marks on schedule for its release.

- e. Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Monthly Report (written)

TW: two high needs grants received. Trainer/mentor will be here next week. Requirement for Waldorf training was decided three years ago. DK: scheduling subs is challenging; kudos to Lauren for making it work. AF: need to think about a plan to respond to any health emergency. TW: ultimately need to follow El Paso County Health Dept. DK: building maintenance is doing extra cleaning. SK: thinking about Grandparents Day (44 people have rsvp'd). Should we advise the GP? Should be doing preventive measures – hand sanitizer at the door, instruct students how to cough.

- f. Action Item Review

Done by email – nothing to report.

7:15 **IV. New Business**

- a. Committee Description document discussion

Lengthy discussion on Committee Description Document. Changes made to first 5 committee descriptions; remaining four left for independent review.

- b. Parent Council 501 status update

AJT: Informal report: Articles are written and under review. Bylaws are written and being passed around for review. The Big Book has been given to someone to read. Would like to provide written report but didn’t have time to respond to this request.

7:55 **V. Upcoming Dates Review**

- a. Upcoming MSCS Staff Meeting _____ - Board Rep _____
- b. Next Board Meeting/Regular Session 3/17/2020 at 6:00pm

8:00 **VI. Adjourn Meeting**

Adjourn