

THE SOURCE

Mountain Song Community School Board of Directors' Newsletter

Board Meeting Thursday, September 17, 2015 6:00 pm

To begin our meeting, ElizaBeth Wildemaan spoke about Michaelmas and its symbolism for Waldorf education in regard to Michael battling the dragon and overcoming obstacles. She described how the 7th grade class is working on creating an obstacle course as a symbolic form of this for MSCS students.

Raj then discussed student achievement numbers on the MAP Reading assessment. All of the scores were very positive. 4th graders achieved a 61% Average and above, 5th grade 71% Average and above (as of the date of the meeting), 6th grade 74% Average and above, and 7th 84% Average and above. The number of students tested was higher than the previous year, which is also a positive sign. ElizaBeth explained that CDE does not look at MAP data, but the Charter School Institute does, so these numbers should help show CSI how Mountain Song is making improvements in reading.

Raj elaborated on how the implementation of the Three Streams Support Team has also been very positive as students are already being addressed and supported before they can “slip through the cracks.”

In his Director’s Report, Raj assured the Board that all students are receiving services as indicated on their IEPs and is making sure Sped needs are being covered. He described how we are getting positive feedback about Springboard and aftercare, and provided a reminder that Springboard is available for care during special events and had already provided low-cost care for the parent evening.

Raj emphasized that he is building good relationships with CSI, and that the next submission due dates to them are purely financial. He is looking into receiving information on paper based testing for CMAS by the next Board meeting so that a policy for student testing and opting out of testing can be formed. Finally, he explained that a Data Dashboard is still being created to provide information more timely information from the Director.

Lori Grant from G & G Consulting came the financial report and stated that the audit field work was done and everything was in order. She provided positive updates on our revenue numbers, describing how grants and Tabor revenue went up, while student enrollment numbers are also very positive.

Ashley Pastorius from Parent Council reported on actions completed during their latest meeting. She gave an update on fundraising as well as on bringing the Parent Council bank account into the school account. She also explained that completion of a student directory is one of their goals, as is a fall dance..

Next, the report from SAC (School Advisory Council) was presented, and we learned that Debie Bennett is their interim chair. SAC identified some flaws with this year's Climate Survey, such as the timing of the survey and exactly what people were responding to when they gave their answers.

Since questions about improving communication with the Mountain Song community had been brought to the Board's attention, different methods of posting the Agenda, Minutes, and the Source newsletter were discussed. In the meantime, we would like to remind everyone that Board agendas, minutes, and newsletters are posted on the Mountain Song Community School Website (<http://mountainsongschool.com/about/governance/>).

The meeting concluded with the creation of the Director Support and Evaluation Committee as we discussed how the committee will select a rubric that will be used to evaluate Raj throughout the year.

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.

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

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 15th @ 6pm