

Mountain Village Montessori Charter School
27285 Brandon Circle
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
Governing Board Meeting
September 15, 2017

Our Mission:

To inspire each child to learn and grow as a responsible global citizen in a collaborative, peaceful, and safe environment through the proven methods of Montessori education. As a school of choice, Mountain Village Montessori Charter School is a place for students, families, and teachers to grow together as a community. MVMCS aims to develop responsible, self-directed and resilient children who become life-long learners and creative problem solvers.

Our Vision:

Mountain Village Montessori Charter School creates a respectful, safe, nurturing and diverse educational community where students, staff, parents and community members collaborate to become empowered, enriched, challenged, resilient and prepared individuals meeting the demands of an ever-changing society.

In Attendance:

Jeff Merage (Chair and Interim Treasurer)
Leslie Gumbrecht (Secretary)
Jason Gilligan
Mike Morris
Emily Barnhart
Kristen Rockford
Michael Girodo (Head of School)
Kate Godley (Director of Business and Finance)

Action Items:

- Leslie will post August minutes to the MVMCS website.
- Emily and Michael G. will deliver the standardized assessment data to staff and parents.

Minutes:

- I. **Call to Order:** 12:40pm
- II. **Agenda Review:** Kristin moves to approve agenda. Emily seconds. Board approves.
- III. **Public Comment:** None.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Emily moves to approve August minutes. Mike seconds. Board approves.
- V. **Board Interviews:** Board interviews Alissa Merage, Mona Gibson, and Adam Wright as possible candidates for the MVMCS Governing Board. The Board asks each candidate questions about their strengths, skills, and reasons for wanting to sit on the Board.
- VI. **HOS Report**—Michael G.
 - a. **Highlights:**
 - i. Enrollment has grown by 35% from last year. Pre-K, kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades are at capacity.

- ii. Before school and after school care are currently cost neutral. Michael G. will keep the Board updated on after care developments. He suggests that perhaps the after care staff person could grow that particular program. He acknowledges the need for more organized before and after care for staff children.
- iii. Michael G. and the staff continue to examine the efficiency of drop off and pick up. The Board discussed the value of having Michael G. available to parents at those times. Michael G. and the staff are being cognizant of the way students are greeted in the mornings.
- iv. Some grant money has been reallocated to support staff development and provide additional materials.
- v. There will be a parent event on Wednesday, September 27th at 5:30pm.
- b. *Review of Standardized Assessment Data:* The testing results did not meet our goals. The Board acknowledges that the Montessori Scope and Sequence does not quite align with the Colorado State Standards; this gap implies that the testing data may not be an accurate indication of students' abilities. Michael G. will be providing some professional development for teachers in an effort to bridge the gap between Colorado State Standards and the Montessori Scope and Sequence. The Board wants academic expectations to be very high, but the Board also indicated that teachers should not be teaching to the test.

VII. **Business Manager's Report**—Kate G.

- a. *School Financials/Budget Update:*
 - i. Kate and Michael G. are in the process of compiling a comprehensive budget report for October.
 - ii. Kate suggests applying for a grant with the Walton Foundation in January.
 - iii. Kate is working to make sure we are in compliance with the TABOR requirements, which state that we must have \$50,000 in savings by June 30, 2017.
 - iv. We may be able to obtain financing to buy this building through the owner.
 - v. Our attorney is still working to secure our 501c3 status and format a tax-exempt letter for MVMCS.
- b. *Audit Update:* Audit is complete. The auditor's report with their suggestions will be delivered soon.
- c. *Fiscal Sponsor:* CSI is now our fiscal sponsor free of charge.

VIII. **Committee Updates:**

- a. *Fundraising Committee:*
 - i. Emily gave an update on the Dueling Pianos event. Board Members were reminded to fill out the donor document. Discounted tickets to the event will be available for teachers. There is a 250-350 ticket capacity at the venue.
 - ii. The fundraising committee is looking for a co-chair. The Board discussed whether or not the fundraising chair should sit on the Board.
 - iii. The fundraising committee will be rolling out their 100-day campaign prior to the "ask" letter in January. The 100-day campaign will begin with a "Gratitude Week" near the Thanksgiving holiday.
- b. *Governance Committee:*

- i. The Board would like to create a comprehensive organizational chart.
 - ii. The Board discusses the need to have overlap between Board Members and committees. The Board discussed the possibility of assigning chair positions to Board officer positions.
 - iii. The Board acknowledged the need to revisit some of the Governance Policy that has already been created.
- IX. **New Business:**
 - a. *Community Building and Outreach:* MVMCS is establishing public tours. Community Building and Outreach needs further discussion.
 - b. *Parent Association Committee:* The Parent Association Committee is looking for a co-chair.
- X. **Old Business:**
 - a. *Elect New Treasurer:* Jason Gilligan offers to return to the Treasurer role temporarily with the assumption that a new Treasurer will take over the role beginning in June of 2017. Emily moves to nominate Jason for the Treasurer position. Mike seconds. Board approves.
- XI. **Executive Session:** n/a
- XII. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30pm at MVMCS. This is a special session to discuss the proposed changes to the Bylaws and to vote on the three Board candidates.
- XIII. **Adjourn:** 3:17pm

Tabled Items or Items Needing Further Discussion:

- July minutes still?
- Middle school discussion
- Board Member goals
- Community building and outreach