

Mountain Village Montessori Charter School
27285 Brandon Circle
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
Governing Board Meeting
December 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)
Mike Morris (Vice Chair)
Jason Gilligan (Treasurer)
Leslie Gumbrecht (Secretary)
Michael Girodo (Head of School)
Kate Godley (Director of Business and Finance)
Darcy Walters (Faculty Representative)
Emily Barnhart
Alissa Merage
Mona Gibson
Adam Wright (by proxy assigned to Jeff for today's Middle School vote)

Action Items:

- Leslie will send approved minutes to Julie.
- Michael will relay the results of our Middle School decision to current 5th and 6th grade families. Jason and Alissa will attend.
- Darcy will reach out to faculty interesting in serving on the Middle School Task Force.

Minutes:

- I. **Call to Order:** 12:42pm
- II. **Agenda Review:** Agenda reviewed by board.
- III. **Public Comment:** None.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Mike moves to approve 10/13, 10/27, and 11/10 minutes. Jason seconds. Approved.
- V. **H.O.S. Report:** Two highlights follow.
 - a. *Educational Consultant Position:*
 - i. Michael would like to temporarily hire Emily to focus on Literacy, Assessment, and Instructional Coaching. Michael recommends that Emily remain on the

board, with the caveat that she would refrain from voting during an identified conflict of interest. The funding for this position is embedded in the CCSP Y3 grant.

- ii. The board discusses several aspects of the issue, including budgeting for the position, the conflict of interest with Emily serving on the board and serving as chair of the Accountability Committee, and the fact that Emily is not Montessori trained.
- iii. After discussion, the board agrees that Emily may temporarily serve in both roles, with the understanding that if she decide to move into the Educational Consultant position full time, she would step off the board.

b. *Middle School:*

- i. The board discusses several issues concerning adding Middle School to MVMCS. Discussion included financial risk and stability, current 5th and 6th grade families, future enrollment, potential grants, and the upcoming decision concerning our authorizer.
- ii. After discussion, Jason moves to decline adding Middle School to MVMCS for the 2018-2019 school year. Jeff seconds. Approved. (Jeff acting as proxy for Adam.)
- iii. Jason moves to initiate a Middle School Task Force dedicated to establishing a process for adding a Middle School in a financially and academically responsible manner. Jeff seconds. Approved. (Jeff acting as proxy for Adam.)
- iv. Michael, Alissa and Mona volunteer to lead the Middle School Task Force. Darcy will work to get faculty representation on the Task Force.
- v. The board also discusses how to best communicate the Middle School decision with families. Michael will speak to 5th and 6th grade families personally prior to the break, with support from Alissa and Jason.

VI. **Committee Updates:**

a. *Treasurer/Finance:*

- i. Draft Revised FY18 Budget: The board should be prepared to vote on the revised budget at the January meeting.
- ii. October Financials: The board discussed several items, including renovation costs, cleaning costs, PERA, and the CCSP grant.

b. *Fundraising Committee:*

- i. Annual Fund Update: Funds are coming in. Mona articulates that the focus is on participation, not dollar amount. The board is 100% pledged.
- ii. MVMCS Fundraising Policy: The fundraising committee would like to communicate that the Annual Fund is the preferred way for parents to make donations. Mona explains that there have been cases of parents giving money when not necessary (i.e., for dictionaries; there are funds already budgeted for this). Darcy suggests having each teacher keep a wish list connected to Amazon, so that parents can buy small appropriate gifts for classrooms, and Michael can provide funding from the budget when appropriate. All other funding should go into the Annual Fund.
- iii. Fundraising 101: To clarify the above, Mona is creating a document titled "Fundraising 101" to share with board members, staff, and faculty.

c. *Authorization Task Force:*

- i. Status Update: Jason will bring the Task Force's formal recommendation to the board in January. The Authorization Task Force consists of Jason Gilligan, Josh Walters, Darcy Walters, and Tim McCarthy.

VII. **New Business:** Not discussed.

VIII. **Old Business:** Not discussed.

IX. **Executive Session:** n/a

X. **Next Meeting:** Friday, January 19 at 12:30pm at MVMCS.

XI. **Adjourn:** 3:07pm

Tabled Items:

- None

Items for January agenda:

- Revised budget vote.
- Authorization Task Force recommendation.