

Mountain Village Montessori Charter School
27285 Brandon Circle
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
Governing Board Meeting
April 13, 2018

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—via phone)
Leslie Gumbrecht (Secretary)
Michael Girodo (Head of School)
Kate Godley (Director of Business and Finance)
Darcy Walters (Faculty Representative)
Emily Barnhart
Alissa Merage
Adam Wright
Mona Gibson (via phone)

Action Items:

- Michael will create an exit interview for staff/faculty who resign.
- Emily and Michael will work to create a survey for staff and parents regarding culture and academics. Please send suggestions for this survey to Michael.
- Board members should complete John Brenda's pre-retreat questionnaire prior to retreat day. (Jeff will distribute via email.)
- Choose a board member to represent MVMCS at the summer/fall CSI board meeting.
- Emily will send links regarding Montessori philosophy to the board for review prior to the May retreat.
- Schedule a special session for the board to meet in May to discuss finance/budget.

Minutes:

- I. **Call to Order:** 12:41pm
- II. **Agenda Review:** Agenda reviewed by board.

- III. **Public Comment:**
- a. Michelle Mahosky is interested in starting a Montessori charter school in South Rountt. She has several families invested in this process. She has been working with Kristen Rockford during her initial exploration process. The board expresses support.
 - b. Kristen Rockford's comment focuses on the dualistic perspectives that tend to surround Standardized Testing. She explains that while some parents see this testing as a barometer of success, other parents see the testing as contradictory to the Montessori philosophy. She encourages the board to explore the complexity and nuance of this situation fully.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Emily moves to approve March minutes. Alissa seconds. Approved.
- V. **H.O.S. Report:** Michael opens for questions concerning his report. Topics of discussion include the primary 30/30 model, staffing, and the Education Fund allocation award.
- VI. **Committee Updates:**
- a. *Finance and Business Manager:* Kate provides an overview of the current finances. She explains that we will end up plus or minus about 1% of budget. Still working to make up TABOR. Kate feels good about where we stand financially, especially compared to the previous year.
 - b. *Fundraising:* We are \$25,000 short of our fundraising goal. Mona would like to work hard to connect the work of the Parent Committee to the Annual Fund. Mona will take the lead on implementing a well-organized structure for this committee. (NOTE: One of the members of the public commented that as a new parent, she had yet to be contacted by the Parent Committee and expressed interest in being involved.)
 - c. *School Accountability:* Emily provided an update concerning the work of the SAC. Her recommendation is to distribute a parent survey to collect information concerning the purpose of our school. Michael explains he is working with Betsy Hoake about concretizing the connections between school culture and academics. The board acknowledges the need to review Montessori philosophy and values as a part of this process.
- VII. **New Business:**
- a. *Ryan Marks: Charter Renewal Process:* Ryan presented the board with a thorough overview of the Charter Renewal Process through CSI. Topics covered included the contract variations, MVMCS representation at the upcoming CSI board meeting, and how the Charter Renewal Process connects to finance, organizational issues, and strategic planning. Ryan also provided an overview of the evaluation process, including alignment with the Montessori philosophy, goal setting, and board self-evaluation. Finally, Ryan updated the board on current funding allocation legislation and proposed per-pupil revenue.
- VIII. **Executive Session:** To discuss the Authorization Task Force (§24-6-402(4)(e), C.R.S.), Mill/Bond and Facilities (§24-6-402(4)(a), C.R.S.), and HOS Evaluation (§24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S.).
- a. Enter executive session at 2:11pm.
 - b. End executive session at 3:37pm.
- IX. **Old Business:** Not discussed.
- X. **Next Meeting:** Friday, May 11 at 12:00pm at MVMCS.

XI. **Adjourn:** 3:40 pm

Tabled Items:

- None