

Mountain Village Montessori Charter School
27285 Brandon Circle
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
Governing Board Meeting
May 11, 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)
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
Jessica LeBlanc
Clare Berkey
John Brendza
Tim McCarthy

Action Items:

- Let Michael know if you can attend the June 1 meeting with the President of the League of Charter Schools.

Minutes:

- I. **Call to Order:** 12:04pm
- II. **Agenda Review:** Agenda reviewed by board. The Executive Session dealing with the CHS Lease will be moved to the following meeting.
- III. **Public Comment:** None.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Table.

- V. **CCSI Report:** Ami Desai (CCSI Team Lead) provides a thorough overview of our CCSI report. Following are general highlights. Full report is available.
- a. Strong Foundations on Which to Build
 - i. Classrooms are well-designed and organized.
 - ii. Interactions between teachers and teachers, teachers and students, and students and students is respectful, positive, and supportive. The report praised the collaborative nature of our school.
 - iii. Ami specifically mentioned that her group found MVMCS teachers to be dedicated to the Montessori Model and connected to each other.
 - b. Landscape Report
 - i. The report indicates that MVMCS is already implementing many of the CCSI standards.
 - ii. Two areas that Ami pointed out the need to implement soon are the Cycle of Continuous Improvement Document, and Strategic Planning.
 - c. Standards 1—8
 - i. The report indicated that the positive aspects were our high quality and committed staff who have the desire for professional development and continuous improvement.
 - ii. Key areas for improvement included: 1) implementing a clearly defined system of employee supervision and evaluation, and; 2) ongoing and embedded professional development based on the needs of students and staff.
 - d. Standards 9 and 10
 - i. The report indicated that MVMCS consistency complies with all legal responsibilities, and that business operations practices are sound. In addition, the report indicated board support for Michael and his commitment to the school.
 - ii. Key areas for improvement included: 1) initiating a formal strategic planning process, which includes clarifying the mission and vision statements; 2) board support for continued development of the School Accountability Committee (SAC); and 3) create an integrated set of financial data scoreboards that monitor progress towards financial stability.
- VI. **H.O.S. Update:** Michael G. gives an overview of his report, and also includes the following:
- a. Ben Linqvist, the President of the League of Charter Schools, will be visiting MVMCS on June 1st at 9:15am. Michael suggests having a couple board members present for the meeting.
 - b. MVMCS will also acquire some additional space in the current building to make up for losing the full-time use of the cafetorium.
 - c. The board also discusses several aspects of the new Director of Teaching and Learning Position, including budget, position title, and timing. The board recognizes the difficulty of finding someone with all the preferred qualifications, and discusses the possibility of the position going to an internal candidate.
- VII. **Executive Session:** Tabled due to timing of CHS Lease negotiations.
- VIII. **New Business:**

- a. Schedule Special Session Board Meeting to review FY18/19 Budget: Friday, May 25 at 8:30am.
 - b. John Brendza: School Vision/Mission: John leads the board in an initial discussion about our current mission and vision. The board will need to consider the following:
 - i. Is MVMCS a pure Montessori school, or are we blending Montessori methods with other philosophies?
 - ii. Does the mission statement inspire both staff and community?
 - iii. Does the mission statement meet the needs of our school and community?
- IX. **Review of Action Items:** Reviewed by Board.
- X. **Board Retreat:**
- a. Pre-Retreat Dinner, Friday, May 11th, Mona's house, 6pm
 - b. Retreat: Saturday, May 12th, CMC Room SB210, 9am to 3pm: Please bring your completed questions to the retreat to use as a reference during the day.
- XI. **Adjourn:** 3:21 pm

Tabled Items:

- Approval of April minutes (please review on our Team Drive)
- CHS Lease terms and Vote