



**Board Meeting Minutes**  
Desert Sky Montessori  
Virtual Meeting  
August 19, 2020

Sam Pierce called the meeting to order at 6:16pm.

**Present:** Sam Pierce, Cara Nowak, Kim Bangerter, John Eskew, Jolene Dodge (6:17 arrival)

**Also Present:** Jodie Borgia, Julia Sutter, Jason Sexton, Jessica Loukonen, Heather Amaral, Ute-Anja McDonald

**BUSINESS**

- A. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approve June 2020 Minutes, July 2020 Minutes, July Special Session Minutes
  - b. Approve Early Entry Policy
  - c. Approve Final Version – Operational Blueprint
  - d. Head of School Report

2020.08.19.01 Cara Nowak moves to approve the consent agenda. John Eskew seconds. The consent agenda is approved by unanimous vote.

- B. Head of School Discussion
  - a. Numbers for enrollment: the aim is to have 175 students enrolled and to have the Average Daily Membership (ADM) funding remain the same so that we are able to closely stick with the budget from before
    - i. There are 167 children on our enrollment list currently, with 155 having returned the survey stating their intentions for schooling for the coming year
    - ii. 5 children have left for another charter school; 4 will be homeschooled; 2 will be attending Bend/Lapine online
    - iii. Jodie Borgia has managed to refill some of the spots vacated by those leaving DSM; 3 new children are on the waitlist and one 6<sup>th</sup> grader has received a new offer as of today
    - iv. We need to have about 10 more students enroll in order to make the budget work
    - v. Jodie Borgia would like to put together a small advertising campaign on social media to let people know what we have to offer (i.e. Montessori pedagogy, our students being able to choose between comprehensive distance learning (CDL) or in-person learning, offering 4 days of in-person instruction when the district is thinking of offering only 2, etc.)
    - vi. Income generated from aftercare will also be lower than expected with the lack of in-person learning and less children enrolled; this may allow us to keep the children who are enrolled in aftercare in smaller cohorts according to classrooms
  - b. Jodie Borgia will be sending out an email to let families know what class their students will be in

- i. It looks as though a CDL only classroom will not be necessary, as there are about 5 children per class who are planning for distance only learning; this will allow all the in-person children to be together for 4 days, with the teachers running CDL on Fridays as to not be overloaded
    - ii. Families who are choosing CDL are required to stay with it at least through the first semester; families who are choosing in-person learning may change to CDL at any time
  - c. Current return-to-school metrics for Bend/Lapine School District have the school year broken into 6-week blocks, with metrics for reopening being monitored and a decision being announced approximately two and a half weeks before a block is scheduled to begin; the earliest possible in-person learning date is currently October 26, 2020
  - d. DSM is currently in need of more tablets, with at least 42 families needing help with devices and at least 1 family in need of a hotspot for wireless internet; DSM has 25 devices in school currently, so will need to source 20 more; Bend/Lapine School District is providing an iPad to each student from kindergarten up
    - i. Looking in to Bend Broadband donating internet access
    - ii. Open to donations of tablets other than iPads for younger children; would prefer iPads for older children so that they may do their testing on them
    - iii. Will check if older iPads are acceptable/compatible with our online programs
- C. Fundraising
  - a. Julia Sutter: our fundraising budget this year will not be what we were hoping for; we are not allowed to have events on site or advertise for any in-person fundraisers; we will do the giving campaign, but it is the only fundraiser we will be able to count on besides the bottle drop program
  - b. John Eskew: perhaps we can have farmers donate/reduce prices for pumpkins and gourds that we could then sell online and deliver to families
  - c. Sam Pierce offered to help with the technology for online fundraising
- D. Future DSM Campus
  - a. The OWC partners and Unity board are still wanting us to go forward together; hoping for a middle school, farm, giving back to the community, retired community members being involved with the preschoolers, etc.
  - b. John Eskew: all of us may be able to help each other, but they will not be able to build a building for us or anything
  - c. Partners are looking into applying for the OWC land to be included in the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and paying for any costs incurred with that; would like for the lot to be zoned commercial in order to be able to sell for the highest price; would need to be in the UGB in order to connect to the sewer system unless the septic system failed
    - i. Jolene Dodge wonders how DSM would benefit from this since we are lessees
    - ii. Julia Sutter: the partners consider this all of our property and are saying that they would use the money from a sale toward another joint property for us all
    - iii. Sam Pierce: there is nothing in writing that guarantees we would enjoy this benefit if the investors sell the land
- E. Ute-Anja McDonald: thinks teachers do not have the same restrictions now as they did last spring, so having it be “real school” is exciting for the teachers as they can guide parents and cater to them with videos that are convenient to access in case of scheduling conflicts
- F. Jodie Borgia thinks that the Zoom link for board meetings should go out to parents in an email instead of only being posted to the calendar on the website
  - a. Julia Sutter: we could make parents aware of the calendar and let them know it will be updated so they can check it if interested

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.

**Recorded by: Cara Nowak**

*Minutes approved at 9/16/2020 Board Meeting*