



Board Meeting Minutes
Desert Sky Montessori
Virtual Meeting
September 16, 2020

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

Present: Sam Pierce, Cara Nowak, Jolene Dodge, John Eskew, Kim Bangerter

Also Present: Jodie Borgia, Julia Sutter, Jessica Loukonen, Heather Amaral, Ute-Anja McDonald, Pascaline Ocana (6:30pm arrival), Dave Trexler, Rhett Harty (until 6:28pm)

OPEN FORUM

Dave Trexler: parent at DSM; would like to participate and see what the board is all about

BUSINESS

- A. Visitor Presentation – Rhett Harty, Unity Community of Central Oregon Board Member
 - a. Rhett Harty: the “Golden Triangle” [nearly 200 acres, located between HWY 97 and HWY 20] in Bend is set to be developed
 - i. We [Unity and DSM] are in a situation to be part of the master plan for this area of development; feels our two organizations present a much stronger case together rather than separate and that the opportunity to be a part of those conversations is remarkable
 - ii. The Unity board has sanctioned a committee that hopes to be working together with DSM to come up with a vision of what we as a group need in the future to be able to work together
 - iii. They would like to see where there is overlap between our organizations (green space, farm, gardens, etc.)
 - iv. Thinks the current property at OWC is quite valuable, as is Dan Pebbles’s expertise
 - b. Sam Pierce: feels there is a position of openness to this idea from our group at the board; wonders how we can support this process besides being at the table for talks
 - i. Rhett Harty: understands that DSM would not be able to support this dream financially, but hopes we could launch a capital campaign together; is willing to commit to at least checking in with both parties [Unity and DSM] weekly about this and invites all of us to be a part of those conversations
- B. Consent Agenda
 - a. Business Director Report
 - b. Approve August 2020 Minutes

2020.09.16.01 Kim Bangerter moves to approve the consent agenda. Jolene Dodge seconds. The consent agenda is approved by unanimous vote.

C. Treasurer's Report

a. Financial summary

- i. John Eskew: enrollment numbers will be key going forward
- ii. Julia Sutter: we will need to find out from the district what new grant money might come in; we will definitely have a new budget to approve for the October meeting
- iii. Kim Bangerter: about our PPP loan...is our 24 weeks up? Have we filled out the application for forgiveness on that?
 1. Julia Sutter: our bank hasn't sent out an application to start this process yet— keeps telling us to wait because of all the new information that is constantly coming out from the government; will get in writing from the banker that we have a longer grace period to apply for forgiveness

D. New Business

a. Head of School – Current Status Discussion

- i. Jodie Borgia: takes the social, emotional, and physical health of the students and staff members very seriously; has tried to work out every scenario for the children to return safely, and still feels good about the plan in place
 1. Bend/Lapine School District meeting last night: district has decided to not stick with the 6 weeks of distance learning that they promised; now wants K-3rd classes back into the buildings for classes on October 12, with the children coming in for half-days in small groups starting the week of 10/5 in order to teach them the new protocols
 2. DSM will begin by offering 3 days per week of in-person learning instead of the 4 days per week we were originally planning on; the smaller groupings will help the teachers facilitate safety protocol effectively; if everything goes well, the 4th day per week will be added the week of November 2nd
 3. Will send out an email to the DSM community tomorrow outlining DSM's plan; will include a directive for parents/guardians to make a decision regarding whether they are planning to participate in a hybrid model of schooling or remain will comprehensive distance learning (CDL), with the understanding that those choosing the hybrid model may change their minds and return to CDL at any time
 4. As per the state's regulations: if we are already on CDL, the metrics that need to be met are very strict to get back to in-person learning; however, the metrics are more relaxed once the children have returned to a hybrid model (ie it takes more cases/greater percentages/etc in order for ODE to recommend the children are placed back into CDL)
 5. Montessori teachers have a much bigger workload to transfer between CDL and in-person learning, and as a small charter we cannot offer them support towards that; our teachers will have to cut back on our current CDL program for the next 2 weeks so that they can get the classrooms ready for in-person learning
- ii. Jodie Borgia: enrollment numbers do directly impact our budget, and she is trying to fill the spots that have vacated because of COVID; we are in need of 5 more children for our

budget to be stable...if this does not happen, she will need to make some hard decisions budget wise; our new marketing committee is working on getting our message out there efficiently and would like for Facebook and Instagram posts to be done in English and Spanish

1. Jolene Dodge: suggests putting out posts in French and German also, since we have fluent speakers in the DSM teaching community
 2. Kim Bangerter: wonders if we have reached out to Unity to market with them and to their community
 - a. Jodie Borgia: it would make sense to build our relationship with that community in any way we can
- b. One World Center Expansion Committee
- i. Julia Sutter: we need the board to agree that we are open to the possibility of moving forward with Unity and would like to report this to Unity's committee on Friday
 - ii. Sam Pierce: we have talked to Jessica Loukonen about her being the board's representative with Julia Sutter going forward in the process with Unity
 - iii. Kim Bangerter: wonders if there is a time frame for how long we are expected to commit to being "in" with them...1 year? 10 years?
 1. Julia Sutter: development and planning committees are in the final stages before going to the city; expect to see major movement within the next year
 - iv. Sam Pierce: thinks that we can be open to a number of things right now, but we also don't have anything in front of us to make a concrete decision on yet
 - v. Jodie Borgia: thinks that the people at Unity are planning to throw their energy into this project and would like us to be enthused with them and see where it heads; thinks that they would like to hear that we are excited about the prospect and are willing to see where it leads
- c. Terms and Officer Rotation
- i. Sam Pierce: his term is coming up and he is not planning to continue as this board's president; he and Jodie Borgia feel that Jessica Loukonen would be a good replacement, and are planning for her to work with Sam Pierce over the next 3 months as she transitions to take on more responsibilities until eventually being voted into office; Sam Pierce would continue to make himself available to her for any questions she might have; suggests that all of the other officers should think about how they could prepare their predecessors
 - ii. Jolene Dodge: states that on another board she serves on, the retired president is required to serve for one year on the board for historical reference, but with reduced responsibilities

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

Recorded by: Cara Nowak

Minutes approved at 10/21/2020 Board Meeting