

Board Meeting Minutes Desert Sky Montessori Virtual Meeting June 15, 2022

Jessica Loukonen called the meeting to order at 6:17pm.

Present: Jessica Loukonen, Cara Nowak, John Eskew, Daisy Sexton, Kevin McKennon

Also present: Jodie Borgia, Bill Alsdurf Jr, Deli Thordarson, Pascaline Myers, Heather Phillips (6:18 arrival)

BUSINESS

2022.06.15.01 Cara Nowak moves to approve the May minutes. Jessica Loukonen seconds. The May minutes are approved by unanimous vote.

- A. Jodie Borgia: Head of School Report
 - a. Would like for the board to review policy for volunteer/criminal history checks; Bill Alsdurf Jr would like the check to be moved from biannually to annually
 - b. Enrollment numbers are down, but there is a robust waitlist
 - i. 15 places are open for next school year; Heather Phillips and Bill Alsdurf Jr will be figuring out where to fill those spaces around which rooms each class will be filling
 - ii. Need to have 176 students as per the tentative budget
 - c. Staffing: have 3 lower elementary candidates to interview; one of these has Montessori training; one has lots of teaching experience and is willing to be trained in Montessori; 3 new teachers have an Oregon teacher's license
 - d. DSM's Wolf class is in the middle of a health crisis as type A Flu is going through this cohort; all students in the class have tested negative for Covid twice; Laura Hart at BLP [Bend-La Pine] has been contacted and is satisfied things are in order as far as testing, cohorting, and containment
 - e. Testing was affected by the high rate of absenteeism this year; school testing had more positive results than state testing; currently working out a plan going forward to help the students to test better
 - f. Teacher evaluations will be finished and available by the time Jodie Borgia leaves the school
 - g. Potentially changing DSM from a charter school to a magnet school: BLP seems very interested in this happening; DSM would lose some autonomy; the district would then take over the business side of the school

- i. Pascaline Ocana: wonders what that change would mean for teachers who are not licensed
 - 1. Jodie Borgia: the district only hires licensed teachers, so that would be a risk
- B. John Eskew: Treasurer Report
 - a. Revenue is still looking good; cash is still up from last year—will be using some of that to finance the move; DSM is still in a good position financially
 - b. Moving budget: no real changes as everything seems to be on track
 - i. 2 of the buildings on the new property may already be connected to the public sewer line—per Julia, per the facilities personnel at BLP—which could change the loan for next year
 - c. Next school year's budget: the board should look at this sometime next week and figure out staffing and salaries
 - i. Bill Alsdurf Jr: he and his father, who is a CFO [Chief Financial Officer], have gone through the budget...looks scary, but Bill Alsdurf Jr is hopeful; was able to reduce the budget by \$60,000 without reducing teachers' salaries
 - ii. Cara Nowak: wonders when we need to have next year's budget approved
 - 1. Pascaline Myers: thinks it needs to be done by July 1, 2022
 - 2. John Eskew: requests that Jodie Borgia asks for us to be given until the end of July to submit an approved budget
 - 3. Jessica Loukonen: will make sure the board has the tentative budget for at least 48 hours before it is voted on
- C. Facilities
 - a. Bill Alsdurf Jr: is working on getting Julia Sutter to serve as project manager for the move as much as possible through the end of July [2022], with her also supporting anything that has not been completed; if not, Jodie Borgia has offered support to him and Heather Phillips
 - b. Jessica Loukonen: security on the new campus
 - i. Bill Alsdurf Jr: received an email from Jared Michaels to offer support in making the new campus as safe and secure as possible for DSM; this is not in Bill Alsdurf Jr's wheelhouse and will be discussed in July when he is in town
 - c. Jessica Loukonen: an email from the board will go out to the parents asking for help with packing for the move
- D. OSBA [Oregon School Boards Association] Policies
 - a. Jodie Borgia: have all of the amended policies to Rick Stucky [policy specialist at OSBA]; waiting to hear from him if any other changes are needed; OSBA gives schools the basic policies—DSM may change the writing of the policies withing the parameters that OSBA allows
 - b. Jessica Loukonen: the board could start meeting to approve these policies during the summer

2022.06.15.02 Cara Nowak moves to re-elect Jessica Loukonen to the position of Board President. John Eskew seconds. Jessica Loukonen is re-elected to the position of Board President by unanimous vote.

2022.06.15.03. Jessica Loukonen moves to approve the addendum for the 2022-2023 HOS [Head of School] contract that changes Bill Alsdurf Jr's starting date from July 1, 2022, to August 15, 2022. John Eskew seconds. The addendum for the 2022-2023 HOS contract changing Bill Alsdurf Jr's starting date from July 1, 2022, to August 15, 2022, is approved by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 7:20pm.

Recorded by: Cara Nowak

Minutes approved at 7/27/2022 Board Meeting