

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