



Board Meeting Minutes
Desert Sky Montessori
63175 OB Riley Road
Bend, OR 97703
March 20th, 2024, at 6:15 pm

March 2024 Board Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

President Jessica Loukonen called the meeting to order at 6:16 PM.

Present Board Members:

John Eskew: Absent
Daisy Sexton: Present
Dave Trexler: Present
Heather Marshall: Present
Jessica Loukonen: Present
Cara Nowak: Present
Jenna Wazny: Present (Online)

Also Present:

Heather Phillips - Present
Deli Thordarson - Present
Jenna Baires - Absent
Al Colombo (until 6:23 pm)
Darlene Weaver - Absent
Louise Wilson – Present
Jen Burgess — Present

Our Vision: Students Empower to share their unique gifts with the world

Our Mission: Desert Sky Montessori provides all children with an environment for joyful exploration that fosters self-discovery and a life-long love of learning

Meeting Section: Treasurer Report

Speaker(s): Al Colombo

Description:

Al Colombo —

Al Colombo went over the July 2024 through February 2024 budget. We are waiting for a grant to come through. Deli Thordarson is making payments on time. There was an additional payment for operations and expenses.

Year after year, we are in decent shape. The numbers look similar to last year. For the budget versus actual, everything is tracking well.

Actions: n/a

Attachments: n/a

Meeting Section: Head of School Report

Speaker(s): Heather Phillips

Description:

Observations: The team has been learning about classroom dynamics, specifically around examining the needs of each student.

Conference: The conferences are scheduled for next month.

Spring: Spring is here, and the students love working outside and thinking about gardening.

Staff update: A new aftercare teacher just started. There is also a new assistant teacher in the Beaver classroom. The team is going to start to look at the structure of the administration team. In April, some staff are going to visit a few other charter schools. The goal is to learn more about the Montessori structure.

The following is an update to enrollment numbers for the 2023-24 school year.

Classroom	Actual	Projected
Otter	24	24
Beaver	12	24

Wolf	26	26
Kestrel	27	26
Antelope	27	26
Steelhead	23	26
Owl	25	30
Total:	162	182

Educational Meet Up: Desert Sky Montessori hosted an educational meeting this month. The turnout was not great.

Spring Break: Spring break is right around the corner. We are hoping everyone enjoys a great break.

State Testing: State testing for older students will happen soon. We cannot front-load the opt-out form. That is really frowned upon. It is every student's right to opt out of this testing, but it really skews the overall data. There is one more round of state testing for the younger students. There was another child study meeting for first graders, and math did not come up as an issue.

Summer School Camp: Deli Thordarson is going to send out a big blast to increase the summer school attendance levels. We currently have 10 students enrolled and there should be around 40-60 students. If more students do not register, they will not be able to keep it going. Last year, Desert Sky Montessori worked at a loss. They did make enrollment not guaranteed. No one has been rejected.

The staff has posted about the themes of the week. This will be offered to incoming students. There are staff members interested in working during the summer. The goal in the camp is to have two groups based on age. We are offering a small discount for siblings and discount or scholarship for families.

Actions:

- Add an opt-out form section to the parent handbook for testing.
- Sent out an email blast about camps.

Attachments: n/a

Meeting Section: Business Director and FODS/Grants Updates

Speaker(s): Deli Thordarson

Description:

Facilities:

The maintenance plan has started, and the first month is free. The HVAC filter has been replaced.

Rob Wilse and the parents met up and talked about all the needs. Rob Wilse reiterated that we will use volunteers when possible.

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Unfortunately, we experienced a flood in the bathroom yesterday. It is crucial to address this issue as soon as possible. We have noticed that excessive toilet paper usage by students is a contributing factor. The plumber has advised us to install a more commercial-grade toilet. Despite the current efforts, the bathroom still has an odor.

Snow removal is going great. It is likely that they have finished for the season. However, they did an excellent job.

Friends of Desert Sky:

Rock Paper Scissors: They are working on the Rock Paper Scissors event, and Deli Thordarson meets weekly. They are doing great and being helpful. They are securing vendors and porta potties. The plan is for May 18th, 11 am – 2 pm, and they are selling booths. The event is scheduled to take place at Alpenglow Park.

Trivia Night: Trivia night has been canceled due to venue limitations.

Other Events: A few different fundraising options are being considered. Something like McMenamins. The biggest ask is for volunteers for events.

First Interstate Bank Update: We are thrilled to announce that First Interstate Bank has generously sponsored our school, enabling us to secure a significant win of \$5,000 this year. Their commitment to banking programs for kids aligns perfectly with our mission at Desert Sky Montessori, and we are excited to foster a strong relationship with them. We have arranged a tour of the First Interstate Bank next week for our students and staff.

T-Mobile and Verizon may help with iPads for students. We need iPads. Multiple laptops are not functional. We can only test part of the classroom in a single day. Deli Thordarson wanted to see if we could rent devices for state testing.

Food Program: This program is for students who need help getting enough food. There is an opportunity for people to donate to this program. Friends of Desert Sky put this program together and collected donations through the parents in the community. For their last round, they received \$600 worth of donations. They are supporting students and families in need. Some teachers are bringing a few snacks to the classroom.

Actions:

- Think about having people donate old iPads could help.

Attachments: n/a

Meeting Section: Board President Updates

Speaker(s): Jessica Loukonen

Description:

PARC Resources: PARC assist in grant writing. Lamfrom put a list of what they are willing to provide us with. We have successfully won a grant for \$25,000. We will get another installment for \$25,000 next November.

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Board Recruitments: It can be challenging to figure out. After spring break, we should reach out to folks and ask for new board member nominees. We will go from there. We need to consider people with specific skill sets.

Actions: n/a

Attachments: n/a

Approval Of Board Meeting Minutes — 2024.02.21.05

Motion: Daisy Sexton moves to approve the board meeting minutes for February 2024. Dave Trexler seconds the motion.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 // **Motion Carried**

Approval Of Voting Heather Marshall in as Borad Secretary — 2024.02.21.06

Motion: Daisy Sexton votes for Heather Marshall on the board as Secretary for the next term. Dave Trexler seconds the motion.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 // **Motion Carried**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 7:01 pm

Recorded by: Heather Marshall

//Minutes approved at April 2024 Board Meeting

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