



Board Meeting Minutes
Desert Sky Montessori
63645 Scenic Drive, Bend, OR 97701
January 8th, 2020

Sam Pierce called the meeting to order at 6:17pm.

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

Also Present: Jodie Borgia, Julia Sutter, Jason Sexton, Heather Amaral, Jessica Loukonen, CeCe Bangerter, Gavin Graham (until 6:55)

OPEN FORUM

Gavin Graham: parent at DSM; thinks the open forum in board meetings should be used as a back and forth discourse instead of the board hearing the comments without responding (Sam Pierce: we have adopted the same format Bend/La Pine uses—ie. the board hears concerns in a public forum instead of engaging in back and forth); does not like the formal complaint form; does not feel like growth is the best place to put DSM energy; is concerned about bad/unsafe driving OWC parking lot; does not like that parents were told by DSM administration that the class list of contact information should be used for arranging playdates only; thinks school's communication is more focused on money and fundraising than anything else; feels strongly about adding a window in the Grey Wolf classroom; wants to see the school succeed and offers to make himself available for that even if they do not have children in the school

BUSINESS

- A. Consent Agenda
 - a. Head of School Report
 - b. Approve December 2019 Minutes

2020.1.8.01 Kim Bangerter moves to approve the consent agenda. Jolene Dodge seconds. The consent agenda is approved by unanimous vote.

- B. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Julia Sutter and John Eskew will have financials ready in advance of the board retreat scheduled for 1/20/2020 so they can be discussed
- C. Report from Visioning Group
 - a. Jodie Borgia, Julia Sutter, Jolene Dodge, and John Eskew met with the property owners and others from the Unity community on 1/6/2020 to discuss plans for moving forward together
 - 1. Julia Sutter presented the plan for using 4 modulars on the OWC property that could be paid for and shared jointly
 - 2. Jolene Dodge feels that the financials and timeline for this to happen is moving more slowly that both groups (DSM and Unity) need for them to; the possibility of grant

money was floated—DSM needs 3 years of financial information to be eligible to submit for most grants and we are almost there

3. Dan Pebbles and Julia Sutter are actively working with architects, engineers, and attorneys concerning developing the OWC site
 - a. The septic system and the limited amount of buildable land are the main sticking points; they are working on getting a cost analysis and timelines together for adding space on the property, as even one modular would require extra capital due to needed septic upgrades, digging, Scenic Drive updates, etc.
4. Still planning to let DSM families know in February 2020 if we will be adding a Middle School

D. Follow up from the concerns presented to the board at the 12/11/2019 board meeting

- a. Sam Pierce: Jodie Borgia is engaged with the parties concerned; feels that we are moving towards resolution (ie. the board president's involvement in the matter per the grievance policy is nearing a close); he will check back in with the families involved to make sure they are satisfied; will soon have the written documentation posted so that we have a record of following the policies as stated
- b. Going over board's roles vs administration's roles
 - i. Sam Pierce: states that the board is concerned with financial oversight, approval of policies and programs, having legally sound protocols in place; board does not get involved with personnel and education
 - ii. Jodie Borgia: states that our attorney reiterated that she is not to give specifics to the board about how she is handling staff problems

E. Retreat planning – schedule, goals, outcomes

- a. Kim Bangerter thinks that the retreat should be about 1-, 3-, and 5-year plans and strategy instead of used for reviewing policies, etc. (thinks that should be done at board meetings instead)
 - i. Would like to exit the retreat with at least a 3-year strategic plan to share with the community at large
- b. Grievance policy review will be pushed to the board meeting next month
- c. Sam Pierce will get back to us about the location and lunch provided
- d. New members: discussion of the role of the board
- e. Mid-year board self-analysis
- f. Outcomes
 - i. Kim Bangerter would like to see concrete objectives for what the board is doing so we can self-assess the following year and thinks solidifying who we want to be should be a primary objective before discussing financials
 - ii. Sam Pierce thinks we should talk about funding streams/fundraising and how the board can help; he will send an email with all of the topics the board members should review before the retreat

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Recorded by: Cara Nowak

Minutes approved at 2/12/2020 Board Meeting