



**Board Meeting Minutes**  
Desert Sky Montessori  
63645 Scenic Drive, Bend, OR 97701  
February 12th, 2020

Sam Pierce called the meeting to order at 6:18pm.

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

**Also:** Jodie Borgia, Julia Sutter, Jason Sexton, Heather Amaral, Jessica Loukonen, Pascaline Ocana, CeCe Bangerter, Kathy McCollum (6:29pm arrival)

**OPEN FORUM**

**BUSINESS**

- A. Consent Agenda
  - a. Business Director Report
  - b. Head of School Report
  - c. Approve January 2019 Minutes
  - d. Acadience test scores report

2020.02.12.01 Sam Pierce moves to approve the consent agenda. Kim Bangerter seconds. The consent agenda is approved by unanimous vote.

- B. Treasurer's Report
  - a. John Eskew: walked the board through the financial summary provided; plans to have a 2-year summary in the future, but today information was given for year-to-date vs prior year; looking at the totals, we are in decent shape financially
- C. Introduction of Kathy McCullum to the board
  - a. Kathy McCullum does evaluation for charter schools in the Bend/La Pine and Redmond areas; DSM is one of her schools
- D. Report from Visioning Group
  - a. Jodie Borgia, Julia Sutter, and Jessica Loukonen were present at the last meeting with property owners and the representatives of Unity community
    - i. Julia Sutter: the owners to the north of OWC have offered to sell for \$650,000 cash, but Dan Pebbles believes they are still asking too much; the Bend Public Library is in the purchase phase for the property to the east of OWC with plans to build the largest library in the area; Dan Pebbles met with the people who sold land to North Star Elementary to inquire about potentially purchasing the remaining portion of their land (around 40 acres) in the next 6-8 months with the hopes of getting the Library to move to his acreage along with Unity and Desert Sky

- ii. Unity has been using the Great Horned Owl room for Sunday school (per our rental agreement) because they are needing more space also
- iii. Unity is interested in looking into grants to help with their funding as well

E. Middle school recommendation

- a. Kim Bangerter: the Middle School Task Force (consisting of DSM parents, administration, staff, and board members) has met several times over the last 7 months as well as visiting schools, talking with experts, looking at curriculum, etc.
  - i. Findings
    - 1. Facilities: too many variables and too much uncertainty as to how to gain more space for the children to tell current parents that we will open a middle school beginning in the 2021-2022 year
    - 2. Finances: could possibly make it work, but there is currently a lot of variation in revenue and expenses which makes it scary
    - 3. Workload: current staff and administrators are stretched already
  - ii. Recommendations
    - 1. Believe that opening a middle school is the correct choice, but that we need to hold off until the 2022-2023 and possibly beyond
    - 2. Both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes should be opened concurrently
    - 3. Look at options outside of OWC, with an emphasis on build to suit
    - 4. Keep a focus on the vision of a “Purpose Built” school
    - 5. Should hire an agent to find, research, and analyze options and opportunities for school sites and locations
- b. Jodie Borgia: discussion of the possibility of having students homeschooled for the first year of 7<sup>th</sup> grade before opening a middle school so that there could be a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade joint class from the beginning; vision of “Purpose Built” includes gardens, playgrounds, beautiful classrooms set up in clusters for joint learning...not necessarily the drawings we have that were made when DSM was first opening
- c. John Eskew: does think we should hold off on the middle school; thinks we need to really look into a build to suit so that it will fit our vision; thinks we should hold off on any further examination of cost concerning the septic system that is triggered by moving a modular onto OWC land
- d. Jodie Borgia: without a modular on the OWC site, we are squeezed very tightly into the rooms with 30 children
- e. Sam Pierce: thinks it’s important to really look into a “Purpose Built” school

2020.02.12.02 John Eskew moves to adopt holding off developing the middle school until at least the 2022-2023 school year and form a sub-committee to look at middle school options including a build to suit. Jolene Dodge seconds. The motion passes by unanimous vote.

- f. Jolene Dodge would like it to be noted that there were 4 parents on the Middle School Task Force who have students that will be directly impacted by this decision, ie. their students will now not be attending middle school with DSM
- g. Sam Pierce: What principles do we hold as a board about the way we think about and spend money?
  - i. Pascaline Ocana wonders if we really want to put money into a property we are renting
  - ii. Kim Bangerter thinks we should not spend any more money on this beyond the budgeted amount for the 2019-2020 school year
- h. Jodie Borgia: John Bullock at the Redmond Proficiency Academy has offered to give us some initial recommendation regarding facilities if we can provide him with a space assessment

inventory (square footage), volume of students expected, and our current financials including how much we are currently spending on facilities

- i. Kathy McCullum: other charters in the area are struggling to full 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms
  - j. Sam Pierce: proposes forming an Expansion Committee; will work on a draft to the school community that communicates the middle school decision and where we are at with expansion
    - i. Expansion Committee to include Sam Pierce, Kim Bangerter, Jolene Dodge, Julia Sutter, John Eskew, Jessica Loukonen, Shelly Phillips, Marissa Bunker, CeCe Bangerter, Scott Anderson
- F. Increase before/aftercare and DSMP tuition rates for 2020-2021 school year
- a. Proposed we increase the tuition for preschool from \$795/month to \$900/month and aftercare from \$185/month to \$195/month for the next school year
  - b. Julia Sutter: we need to increase our prices for the preschool to remain open into the future and remain afloat
  - c. Jodie Borgia: we currently have a waitlist for preschool; our program compares better than other preschools in the area regarding playground, better materials, etc.
  - d. Heather Amaral: \$895/month feels better; Julia Sutter agreed that \$895/month is doable
  - e. This proposal will be voted on at the DSMP board meeting to follow

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm to a DSMP special meeting with an executive session to follow.

**Recorded by: Cara Nowak**

***Minutes approved at 3/11/2020 Board Meeting***