



Board Meeting Minutes
Desert Sky Montessori
Virtual Meeting
October 21, 2020

Sam Pierce called the meeting to order at 6:19pm.

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

Also Present: Jodie Borgia, Julia Sutter, Heather Amaral, Jessica Loukonen, Heather Phillips, Pascaline Ocana, Ute- Anja McDonald, Dave Trexler

BUSINESS

- A. Consent Agenda
 - a. Head of School Report
 - b. Business Director Report
 - c. Approve September 2020 Minutes

2020.10.21.01 Kim Bangerter moves to approve the consent agenda. John Eskew seconds. The consent agenda is approved by unanimous vote.

- B. Treasurer's Report: Financial Summary and New Budget Discussion
 - a. John Eskew: DSM: revenue has been decreasing steadily since July; grant money is down from last year; expenses have been cut as much as possible; salary expenses have been cut (with letting some staff go earlier in the year)...DSMP: no revenue coming in, so revenue and cash are down since last year; salaries were maintained because of the PPP [Paycheck Protection Program] loan...both companies still have cash in the bank
 - b. Julia Sutter: we are caught up on PERS [Public Employee Retirement System] and health insurance; we do have some outstanding bills with a few families concerning DSMP, but are caught up other than that
 - c. Kim Bangerter: wonders what morale is looking like among teachers as lots of money has been cut
 - i. Jodie Borgia: it depends on the day and what is going on; assistants have had their salaries cut in half; administrators have had their salaries cut; head teachers are already being asked to do more and more with less help, and once we move to a hybrid model, their workload will increase dramatically; we are all trying to prop each other up
 - d. Heather Amaral: wonders what it will look like for the school if we lose more enrollment
 - i. Jodie Borgia: it will then come down to fundraising or we will have to take a hit somewhere else; the budget that the board is being asked to approve tonight will still be contingent on the successful fundraising of at least \$40,000 this year

- e. Sam Pierce: thinks that this budget is the best that can be done considering the circumstances; encourages all the board members to fundraise
 - i. Jodie Borgia: would like to point out that we need to be looking towards fundraising for the next 2 years, as the ADM [Average Daily Membership] funds are likely to drop after this year; this is not a short-term problem; we need to put the school in a position where we can weather cuts in funding for 2 years and be okay
- f. Julia Sutter: would like for the board to look at the previously approved budget and compare it to the one being proposed tonight
 - i. John Eskew: agrees and disagrees...thinks the board is being asked to approve the overall revenue level, expenses, and changes, but it is up to Jodie Borgia—with Julia Sutter’s input—to move money around
 - 1. Kim Bangerter: yes, but within reason...thousands of dollars being moved should come back to the board, but with the current situation and the pandemic, Julia Sutter and Jodie Borgia need to be able to be flexible because they are more familiar with what is needed in that moment
 - ii. Julia Sutter: feels very responsible for the budget, and does not want it all to rest on her shoulders
 - 1. Jodie Borgia: realizes it actually all falls on her shoulders, not Julia Sutter’s; although the board has a fiscal responsibility for the school also
- g. Julia Sutter: plans to convert the new budget, if approved, into a monthly budget so we will be able to compare it to the previous month, last year to date, etc.

2020.10.21.02. John Eskew moves to approve the budget as submitted. Sam Pierce seconds. The budget is approved by unanimous vote.

- h. Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)
 - i. John Eskew: 2.75% fixed interest loan over 30 years for a nonprofit, with no pre-payment penalty or fees; could borrow up to \$150,000 to be paid off monthly or in a lump sum; the risk would be if we would have to close the school for some reason while carrying this outstanding debt
 - ii. Sam Pierce: wonders if the district would approve us to accept this loan; wonders if we would be considered a “private nonprofit” as stated in the loan application paperwork
 - iii. Jodie Borgia: thinks that sometimes charter schools need to be taking more risks in order to get through tough situations like the one we are currently in; this loan money is being offered by the government right now because of the pandemic, so she thinks that we should take advantage of it now, then put the remainder into reserves if we are able to fundraise; the assistants would also be able to come back to work fulltime so that we would still be able to use the low teacher/student ratio as a selling point to attract new students
 - iv. Julia Sutter: the district must approve every loan that we get; thinks we should be very careful about taking on debt today that will need to be repaid later
 - v. Kim Bangerter: thinks this loan sounds like a good option, but only if we make sure that we are still running with a tight budget and keeping that money in reserves for when things get even worse

C. New Business

- a. Head of School – New Policies
 - i. Jodie Borgia: The All Students Belong Policy and the procedures that are to be followed have come from ODE [Oregon Department of Education]; Title IX Sexual Harassment

Policy training was supposed to be completed by August, but this deadline was derailed by COVID-19; she has been through the training already and will hopefully have the updated policy for the board to approve by November

2020.10.21.03. Kim Bangerter moves to approve the All Students Belong Policy. Sam Pierce seconds. The policy is approved by unanimous vote.

b. Expansion Update

- i. Jessica Loukonen: we have come up with our ideal blueprints; a little less than 8 acres would be needed; this plan would have us sharing a small section of that acreage with Unity (parking, shared kitchen, etc.); no money has been spent on this planning so far

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Recorded by: Cara Nowak

Minutes approved at 11/18/2020 Board Meeting