



Board Meeting Minutes

Desert Sky Montessori

Virtual Meeting

January 20, 2021

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

Present: Sam Pierce, Cara Nowak, Kim Bangerter (until 7:20pm), Jolene Dodge, John Eskew

Also Present: Jodie Borgia, Julia Sutter, Jessica Loukonen (until 6:57pm), Heather Amaral, Ute-Anja McDonald (6:20pm arrival)

BUSINESS

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

2021.01.20.01 John Eskew moves to approve the consent agenda. Cara Nowak seconds. Jolene Dodge abstains. The consent agenda is approved by a vote of 4/1.

- B. Expansion Update
 - a. Jessica Loukonen: Unity and DSM are still meeting every 2 weeks and are now being joined by LightPath, a non-religious, educational group focused on compassion, handling hard times in life, etc.; Lawrence Schechter is working on the blueprints; the next phase will be putting together a feasibility proposal which would require the help of architects, engineers, etc and would include a marketing pamphlet—this would cost DSM \$22,000
 - b. Julia Sutter: the feasibility proposal will have all 3 organizations represented, but each organization will also be able to stand alone for fundraising purposes; we would pay them [Integrated] as the work is completed and have made them aware that we could not pay in full until next year's budget cycle; we do not need the board to vote on spending today—just letting the board know where we are headed
 - c. Jodie Borgia: LightPath's vision actually fits in really well with DSM and Unity's vision; the package being put together could be used for any piece of land; we do need to be sure to keep our fundraising separate from Unity's
 - d. Kim Bangerter: wonders if LightPath is thinking of building their own building or using some of ours
 - i. Julia Sutter: LightPath has already designed a structure for themselves they hope to build
 - e. Sam Pierce: wants to be aware that we are talking about sharing a space with 2 organizations that are promoting some metaphysical and/or spiritual ideas that could be off-putting for some
 - f. John Eskew: shares everyone's trepidation, but knows we have talked about expanding to a middle school and thinks this would give us a jumpstart on getting there and a solid base

C. Treasurer's Report

- a. John Eskew: still doing really well, considering; our revenue is actually up from this point last year, even though our grants are down
- b. Jodie Borgia: CARES [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security] funds: funds need to be spent on resources to help children who have fallen behind due to distance learning; hoping that we will get a significant amount of money, but it will depend on how these extra relief funds are allocated throughout the district; hope to use the funds to rehire staff, thus creating a lower teacher/student ratio in order to help students catch up

D. Head of School Discussion

- a. Jodie Borgia: yesterday, new guidance came out for reopening schools for in-person learning; the new metrics are still advisory, not mandatory; we—along with all Bend/Lapine schools—are opening our school to hybrid learning while in the red [red = it is recommended to prioritize Comprehensive Distance Learning with Limited In-Person Instruction]
 - i. Wants to let the board know that this is a risk, but it is also difficult for DSM to not follow what Bend/Lapine schools are planning since we would lose children to them if we do not open when they do
 - ii. Bend/Lapine may change whether they open the middle and high schools because of where the Covid numbers are
 - iii. Liability risk: we will still be protected while opening in the red if we follow every recommendation listed in the Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidelines put out by ODE [Oregon Department of Education]
 1. We will be sending a blueprint for reopening and the ODE recommendations out to our school's community
 - iv. Teachers/staff are beginning to be vaccinated; once they are 2 weeks past their final vaccination, they will not have to quarantine if there is a case of Covid in the school
 1. Jodie Borgia is asking the teachers and staff to stagger their vaccine schedules because about 5% of people are having to take a day off of work after their second vaccination
 - v. One of the problems that we are facing across the state is the Health Department not doing a good job with contact tracing; Jodie Borgia will be helping the Health Department with this job if there is a case in the school
 - vi. If a school is opened while in the red, there must be rapid tests available by March for any teachers/students/staff showing symptoms
 1. Rapid tests will be free, but we will need 2 staff members to go through online training on how to administer them
 2. Parents/guardians will need to sign a permission form allowing testing, but may opt out
 - vii. Jodie Borgia and Heather Phillips have already had their first vaccinations to prepare for running the isolation rooms at either location
 - viii. Sam Pierce: wonders what documentation would look like so that we can show DSM is doing their due diligence each day
 1. Jodie Borgia: our blueprint for opening has everything included and needs to be carried out with fidelity; there will be a checklist and questions asked of the children and/or their guardians on their way into the building—answers will be recorded, along with what time they arrived, that they were screened, when

they left, and any additional adults that have come in contact with the children during the day

- ix. Jodie Borgia: feels good about opening because of having so many safety procedures in place
- x. Heather Amaral: wonders about guidelines on siblings if a class does end up quarantined
 - 1. Jodie Borgia: will be sending that information out to parents/guardians this week
- xi. Cara Nowak: wonders how the teachers are feeling about opening
 - 1. Jodie Borgia: thinks the teachers are nervous, but the majority of them are looking forward to reopening; thinks the anxiety about returning to in-person schooling will be gone after we all have some time under our belts
- b. Jodie Borgia: received another 4 applications for our preschool program today, but will not know for a while if the program will open next year (depends on if the regulations regarding distancing in schools have eased)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

Recorded by: Cara Nowak

Minutes approved at 2/17/2021 Board Meeting