



Board Meeting Minutes

Desert Sky Montessori

Virtual Meeting

April 21, 2021

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

Present: Sam Pierce, Cara Nowak, John Eskew

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

BUSINESS

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

2021.04.21.01 Sam Pierce moves to approve the consent agenda. John Eskew seconds. The consent agenda is approved by unanimous vote.

- B. Treasurer's Report
 - a. John Eskew: we are projected to finish the school year with a good surplus of funds
- C. Expansion Update
 - a. Julia Sutter: still meeting regularly; looking at a couple of different sets of properties; the promotional video is being filmed and will be ready to go out with an email about our expansion plans to our community
- D. Sam Pierce: the board is to consider moving Jessica Loukonen and Heather Amaral from the DSMP board over to the DSM board
- E. Head of School Discussion
 - a. Jodie Borgia: assistants are back fulltime, Monday thru Thursday; when offering spots for next year, Jodie Borgia is planning for everything to be the same or improved concerning Covid and its related restrictions; Heather Phillips and Jodie Borgia are starting to interview for staff on May 1; so far, all current teachers are returning next year except for Emily Friedman
 - i. There is an \$88,000 surplus projected for the end of this year
 - 1. Would like the board to approve adding a fulltime, Monday thru Thursday, upper elementary assistant for the remaining school year

2. Would like the board to reinstate the administrative wages that have been cut, beginning March 1
 - a. John Eskew: wonders what our surplus would be if we made said changes
 - i. Julia Sutter: it would be an \$11,309 difference, so the surplus would then be about \$76,500
 - b. Jodie Borgia: a couple of children have unenrolled; there is a waitlist for next year; Julia Sutter has done next year's budget for 174 students; the ESSR [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief] funds are going up next year from what they were this year—these are the targeted federal funds to help children bridge the gap that occurred this year
 - i. John Eskew: wonders when we will know what the ESSR numbers are and how that affects the children on the waitlist
 1. Jodie Borgia: we do not have a date yet for when the ESSR funds will come in; the first round of offers is finished with 2 spaces left to fill; is not worried about us maintaining 174-175 children, but will not be adding children to the K-1 classes since that is what the funds are supposed to be used for
 - ii. John Eskew: offering his overview of the budget: Jodie Borgia would like to have less children in order to provide a better environment for the children and the teachers, but when the government funds go away, we will have to increase class size; in other words, the model for this coming year will possibly not work for other years
 1. Jodie Borgia: thinks this is a fair assessment
 2. John Eskew: would want for us to use funds from the CARES [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security] Act to help with these goals, but not use any other surplus
 3. Jodie Borgia: agrees—that is what they are intended for
 - c. Jodie Borgia: will be sharing the easyCBM testing report with the board at the June meeting; teachers are reporting not really seeing a "Covid gap," except for possibly the kindergarteners because they are such hands-on learners
 - i. ESSR funds can be used for children who are struggling educationally, socially, emotionally, and/or mentally, and would fund our 3 week, academically intensive summer program this year to help any children who may need it
 1. Heather Amaral: wonders if the summer program would be open to all students or only those who need the most help
 - a. Jodie Borgia: it is supposed to be targeted

2021.04.21.02. John Eskew moves to approve the reinstatement of the admin salaries retroactive to March 1, 2021, and the hiring of the upper elementary assistant for the last 9 weeks. Sam Pierce seconds. The reinstatement of the admin salaries retroactive to March 1, 2021, and the hiring of the upper elementary assistant for the last 9 weeks is approved by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to a DSMP meeting followed by an executive session at 6:54pm.

Recorded by: Cara Nowak

Minutes approved at 5/19/2021 Board Meeting