



Board Meeting Minutes
Desert Sky Montessori
Virtual Meeting
May 19, 2021

John Eskew called the meeting to order at 6:24pm.

Present: Cara Nowak, John Eskew, Kim Bangerter

Also Present: Jodie Borgia, Julia Sutter, Jessica Loukonen, Heather Amaral, Pascaline Ocana, Kevin McKennon, David Trexler

OPEN FORUM

David Trexler: has a 1st grader in the Antelope classroom; loves the school; wants to see if he can find out more about the board and get involved

Kevin McKennon: has a kindergartener at the school; is a pilot for Alaska Airlines; moved to Bend, Oregon, 3 years ago; would like to be involved with the board

BUSINESS

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

2021.05.19.01 Cara Nowak moves to approve the consent agenda. Kim Bangerter seconds. The consent agenda is approved by unanimous vote.

- B. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Financial Summary
 - i. John Eskew: we are in good shape financially; district revenue is up compared to last year; CARES [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security] Act, Student Investment Act, and ESSER [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief] funds are contributing to the influx; will be using some of the excess funds for next year, but need to make sure that it is sustainable; did hire assistants and reinstated the administrators' salaries that had been cut; will end the year with a surplus—fiscal year begins in July and runs through June
- C. OWC Future Campus update
 - a. Julia Sutter: have been meeting with the planning team and the organizations involved (Unity, Lighthouse, Unity owners, and DSM)

- i. All have decided to stop communication with the planning team for the time being until a charter made up of representatives from each organization can be established—need to have a more cohesive voice and be seen as “one client”—Ann Marie Colucci will be leading us in this process
- ii. A mini pitch package explaining our mission is needed
- iii. Dan Pebble, one of the Unity owners, is interested in purchasing a specific property; there is a confidentiality agreement to be signed regarding said property; he would allow DSM to pay for our piece of land once we have raised the funds to do so; he is asking each of the organizations involved to nominate a representative for their group who will be the main contact and go between
 - 1. Julia Sutter read and screenshared a drafted document titled “Corporate Resolutions by the Board of Directors for Desert Sky Montessori” which would authorize Jodie Borgia, Julia Sutter, and Jessica Loukonen to speak for DSM in this capacity; will also email this document to the board so that it can be looked over more thoroughly
- iv. Creating the charter will not cost us any additional funds
- v. Kim Bangerter: wonders how voting would work within the charter
 - 1. Julia Sutter: thinks that DSM will end up with 2 votes, since 4 entities voting could cause some issues; DSM will be the biggest player in this: taking up the most land, having the most buildings, will be leading with education in talks with the city
 - 2. Kim Bangerter: wonders if it would have to be a unanimous vote in order for the charter to move forward; also wonders if the representatives have the right to make decisions or if it will be coming back to the board for final decisions
 - a. Jodie Borgia: this document would only give us permission to have a voice in the meetings; we will be coming back to the board for a vote on any decisions
- b. Heather Amaral: wonders about the community’s response to the email [containing the video explaining how DSM is looking to expand and build a purpose-built school]
 - i. Jodie Borgia: 99% incredibly positive, 1% negative; need to send out a clarifying email as to where we are in the planning process; everyone wants a middle school, and this is the most probable way for us to get it
- c. Julia Sutter: recommends we appoint Jodie Borgia, Jessica Loukonen, and herself to be the acting members for DSM within the new charter being created; hopes the charter will be created by next month’s meeting; would like for the board to sign the document in the next few days—can offer edits, and if we aren’t comfortable, it can be discussed at the board meeting next month instead of it being signed remotely
 - i. Ann Marie Colucci and Jerry Mitchell at Integrated Reality will be leading the process to draft the charter between the 4 organizations; hopes the charter will be ready for the board to vote on next month
 - 1. Jodie Borgia: suggests that Ann Marie Colucci attends the meeting to explain it to the board before it is voted on

2021.05.19.02 John Eskew moves that Jodie Borgia, Julia Sutter, and Jessica Loukonen represent us on this project. Kim Bangerter seconds. Jodie Borgia, Julia Sutter, and Jessica Loukonen representing us on this project is approved by unanimous vote.

D. Head of School Update

- a. Jodie Borgia: enrollments have remained steady—the school has 176 students enrolled for next year; is working with the teachers to place children for next year; is working with Heather Phillips to fill the vacant staff positions for next year; there will be meetings next month concerning what Covid restrictions will be in place for schools next year
 - i. Deep in student testing this week and will have a summary of the test results to share with the board at next month's meeting; interested to see what gaps will be shown because of all of the CDL [Comprehensive Distance Learning] this year—anticipates that the biggest gap will be with math since Montessori math is so hands-on and language is testing well so far; will be working with the teachers to plan on how to fill any gaps that are presented and will have a summer program this year to help any children who may have fallen behind
 - b. Julia Sutter: need to hire a K/1 teacher and aftercare positions for next year
 - i. Jodie Borgia: the K/1 applicant must have an Oregon teaching license; would like to have the aftercare separated by campus to reduce Covid spread risk
- E. Board Recruitment and Onboarding of a New Board President
- a. John Eskew: the process for becoming a board member is to attend at least 2 board meetings, then fill out the application and reach out to the board if interested; the board president role will be voted on at next month's meeting; would like to vote Jessica Loukonen and Heather Amaral onto the board at tonight's meeting
 - i. Jessica Loukonen: is ready to be voted onto the board tonight and is willing to accept the challenge of being Board President; loves the school and its teachers; cares tremendously about the children; wants to learn and is excited to see where DSM heads in the coming year
 - 1. Jodie Borgia: has scheduled a meeting next week with Jessica Loukonen and herself to discuss the role
 - ii. Heather Amaral: seconds Jessica Loukonen's sentiments; hopes that tomorrow's meeting with OSBA [a scheduled board training with the Oregon School Boards Association] will help to answer some questions; thinks DSM is a special place to go to school; excited to join the board

2021.05.19.03 John Eskew moves that we elect both Jessican Loukonen and Heather Amaral to the DSM Board of Directors. Kim Bangerter seconds. Jessica Loukonen and Heather Amaral are elected to the DSM Board of Directors by unanimous vote.

- F. OSBA Board Training Tomorrow
- a. John Eskew: suggests that Kevin McKennon and David Trexler attend
 - i. Kevin McKennon: confirms he will attend
 - ii. David Trexler: would like to attend, but has some prior commitments
 - 1. Julia Sutter: suggests the meeting is recorded and a link emailed to all in attendance plus David Trexler
 - b. Julia Sutter: the OSBA trainer has asked that everyone comes with some questions to be addressed during tomorrow's meeting

2021.05.19.04. Kim Bangerter moves that we skip the July board meeting. Jessica Loukonen seconds. July's board meeting will be skipped by unanimous vote.

- G. Kim Bangerter: his board term is up; has decided to leave; thanks us all for our service; feels it has been and exciting journey
 - a. The board thanks Kim Bangerter for his service

- H. Cara Nowak: would like to have an executive session for the board to discuss with Jessica Loukonen if she has any concerns regarding taking on the presidential role and how we can support her with this
 - a. Jodie Borgia: thinks Sam Pierce should be present when this is discussed

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to an executive session at 7:17pm.

Recorded by: Cara Nowak

Minutes approved at 6/17/2021 Board Meeting