



Board Meeting Minutes
Desert Sky Montessori
Virtual Meeting
November 17, 2021

Jessica Loukonen called the meeting to order at 6:16pm.

Present: Jessica Loukonen, Cara Nowak, John Eskew, David Trexler, Kevin McKennon, Daisy Sexton

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

BUSINESS

A. Jodie Borgia: Head of School Report

- a. Enrollments are steady at 170 students
- b. Staffing
 - i. Still in search of a teacher for Amanda Olson while she is on maternity leave; Louise Wilson will be coming to teach the class on Mondays and Tuesdays; substitutes will hopefully be secured for the remaining 3 days per week; Jodie Borgia plans to be in and out of that classroom to provide assistance; the children seem focused and are carrying on as normal so far
 - ii. Still attempting to increase our substitute teacher pool and have 2 new substitutes starting
- c. No new Covid-related issues have occurred since the last board meeting; the weekly Covid screening program is growing—close to half of the children are currently participating
- d. Steve Cook [BLP Superintendent] and Lora Nordquist [BLP] visited both DSM campuses on Tuesday; they interacted with the children and observed them working with some of the Montessori materials; both were supportive of DSM's program and assured Jodie Borgia that we would not be going without classrooms next year if the small chance of them not securing construction supplies would occur
 - i. Julia Sutter: brought up the possibility of DSM having a lunch program next year if we do move to one campus, which was well-received

B. Julia Sutter: Business Director Report

- a. The final signed lease is on the shared drive and the deposit has been paid; still in need of drawings of two of the buildings—would like to have our architect come with her when she meets with the inspectors

- b. The Giving Campaign is going well so far; the Giving Tree for the school should be up soon
 - c. The Holiday Wreath Sale was very successful
 - d. Will be working on the financials and have them to the board soon, as she needed to take time off for a surgery
- C. John Eskew: Treasurer Report
 - a. Financial Summary: nothing to worry about at this point; will get more information to the board once the financials are ready
- D. Future Campus Discussion
 - a. Julia Sutter: would like to plan for a big announcement when we know more
- E. Jessica Loukonen: Board President Update
 - a. Jodie Borgia is working on the policies we are needing
 - i. Jodie Borgia: has received multiple emails that she is planning to review over next week's break; will let the board know if members need to be involved with this or if the board is only required to read them over and approve them
 - b. Would like to tell Kristen Miles that we would like to do the board development package that OSBA offers and will get back to us with potential dates for this
 - i. Julia Sutter: requests that Jessica Loukonen gives her any estimated costs she would like to spend on board improvement, retreats, etc.
 - c. Would like for board members to send pictures and bios to be uploaded to DSM's website to Julia Sutter
 - i. Julia Sutter: could speak about your family, experience, and what motivated you to join the board; would like them by the end of November; is also currently working on rebranding
 - d. The board will be doing some staff appreciation activities on Thursday and Friday of this week; would like to do this quarterly if funds allow; the board/staff get together at The Bite is being held December 1, 2021, at 3pm
- F. Kevin McKennon: wonders what board members are planning to give to the school during the Giving Campaign
 - a. John Eskew: was under the impression that the school would be one of the board's main donations for the year, but it is up to each individual what they feel comfortable with
 - b. Jodie Borgia: we do not specify how much each member should give, but would like to be able to say that all members donated
 - c. Julia Sutter: would appreciate each member donating in the \$25 and under category each week—then whatever else you might want to put in—so that we could win the extra \$2000 for most donations under \$25; the campaign runs until December 31, 2021

- G. Kevin McKennon: wonders about the Covid vaccination rates for students at DSM
 - a. Jodie Borgia: does not have numbers concerning this vaccine yet, but has heard from one teacher that 1/3 of her class is already vaccinated; will keep the board in the loop if anything is announced about the vaccine being mandated
 - b. Julia Sutter: the admin team has decided that proof of the children being fully vaccinated will be emailed to her so that their vaccine records can be updated

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 7:04pm.

Recorded by: Cara Nowak

Minutes approved at 12/15/2021 Board Meeting