

School Governing Board Committee

(AKA Advisory Council)

Minutes

Wednesday, September 26th, 2018, 5:45 P.M.

6050 N Invergordon Rd., Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to members of the Montessori Academy Charter School that the School Governing Board Committee's specially scheduled meeting is open to the public on Wednesday, August 29th, 2018, 6050 N Invergordon Rd., Paradise Valley, AZ 85253, Room 11

1. Call to Order at 5:45 p.m. by Kara Tustin.
2. Record Member Attendance. Present: Kara Tustin, Jennifer Dunn, Nicholas Toronto, Debra Berkey, and Maieta Clark. Absent: George Wood, Dr. Jeff Trent, and Maegan Dixon. Executive Board Members – Juli Newman. Guest attendance: Andrea Corbin, Rachel Hodgson, and Jill Plonski.
3. Initial call to public- Non-agendized item: None
4. Acknowledgements/Introductions. Nick Toronto commented the minutes read like a short story. Entertaining and informative. Jennifer Dunn was happy to see the pool remodel almost complete; the tortoise being an amazing presence with the children; and, what a great job Maieta was doing on campus with all the 'greening' up. Kara Tustin 'super impressed' and appreciative of the teachers and feels a great energy and presence with the campus, staff, and children this year. Maieta Clark acknowledged her endeavors on campus and mentioned the need for Rosemary plants. (addendum: Nick Toronto purchased and delivered five Rosemary plants the next day!)
5. Review and approve minutes for August 29th, action item. Nick Toronto moved to approve. Debra Berkey seconded. NT, DB, MC, JD, KT voted in favor. Approved 5-0.
6. Old Business
 - a. Strategic Plan update. Juli Newman.
 - i. Continuing the prioritizing and selection of items from Strategic Plan categories. Each board member to present initial ideas and topic. Jennifer Dunn will have posters by the end of October for Tax Drive. Maieta Clark is already attacking the facilities beautification. Ramping up donations, farm to table, themed areas as biome education tools. Kara Tustin spearheading Montessori education for parents/families. "Core child value system within an appropriate setting" Dr. Trent (via Jennifer Dunn) will work on the Grandparent education/extension. Krista Cross (via Juli Newman) has a vision of the Montessori teachings and lessons as a videos/webinars for teachers and parents to learn and see just how lessons

work and how amazingly responsive children are. Juli Newman asked, “Where do you want to leave your mark?” regarding the immediate and long-term strategic plans. What is sustainable? Active discussion around reviewing these plans monthly/yearly to ensure board on point and current with each aspect of their agreed upon goal.

- b. Facility Plan. Update. Juli Newman communicated with the group that the Executive Board had gotten together Tuesday, September 25 and had a discussion. This is to be emailed to the board for further review.
 - c. Review July and August financials. Action item- Juli Newman. Audit is in process and so far, is clean. Some of the numbers in the monthly financial were off slightly due to audit. There was only one glaring error in verbiage. A \$500,000 loss, attributed to the bond transfer, is being reviewed as a possible incorrect entry. There was no “real” loss to the school. Audited financials for Title 1 and IDEA were placed in July by mistake. They are being moved to June, as they were from last fiscal year. Charter Consultants has asked us to be more specific in our accounting, so categories are being more closely regulated and new categories have been created to be extremely specific as to where the monies are going. This ‘due diligence’ serves the purpose of keeping us more transparent and ensures a smoother audit. For example, all tuition is divided into sub-categories, toddler/early ed/cactus camp/smart camp et al. No tax debt this year. Revenue streams increased this year. SPED increased this year. Nothing out of the ordinary.
7. New Business.
- a. Review status of upcoming events. Debra Berkey shared all events coming up. Hometown Fair (Lisa Braszky) Timeline of Life (Bednarz/Gartner), Room parents cohesive and enthusiastic, Turkey Trot (Ms. Mo), Senior Speeches, Spirit Day (literary character dress up) Kara Tustin is interested in adding some new components to Turkey Trot and will be working closely with MS. Mo. Jennifer Dunn opened the floor for a healthy discussion regarding the articulation and explanation around what connotes a strong literary character, what is deemed appropriate literature? What is the instructional value? What do the children learn from this? How can Honor Council create more cohesion with some of the topics addressed?
 - b. Review status, Early Ed playground dust- Juli Newman. Two companies came to address the sand issue and are currently creating bids using different styles and types of ‘turf’ and different strategic locations around the playground maintaining appropriate sand levels at play structures, while eliminating sand at the same time. Toddlers are also receiving a quote for the removal of sand and addition of ‘turf’. Possible addition to facility plan. Several months ago, a discussion had been had regarding the addition of an outdoor toilet in Early Ed. There is not a direct line to

septic, but it is possible to hook it up as we have 12 septic tanks on property. While not in the forefront of pressing matters, it is still in our minds as a possibility.

8. Executive Board Report- Juli Newman- As mentioned, an Executive Board meeting had occurred on Wednesday, September 25. Two noteworthy mentions: Notes receivable in the amount of approximately \$10,000 due to under-reporting ADM to the state in 2017. Accountant had not put in budget. Another topic of discussion was regarding the board. Is there value in keeping members of the board 'on board' if they have missed three consecutive meetings? The Executive Board can remove these people, freeing up seats, for a more flourishing board group. Jennifer Dunn stated she would mention this at the parent meeting the following evening to rouse interest.
9. Final Call for public comment. Andrea Corbin, on behalf of Honor Council, apologized for the oversight in the specification of super heroes' verses princesses, as well as clarifying comic books/graphic novels vs. literary books and the value each have to various demographics. An Honor Council meeting will be happy to discuss this rich topic.
10. Date of next meeting will be October 24th, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 11. Kara Tustin/Jennifer Dunn
11. Meeting moved to adjourn by Jennifer Dunn, seconded by Debra Berkey. NT, DB, MC, JD, KT voted in favor. Approved 5-0. Adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

The next REGULARLY scheduled Advisory Council meeting will be held October 24th, 2018, 5:30 pm at 6050 N Invergordon Rd, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253, in Room 11 or other such accommodations as may be appropriate. If members interested in attending desire telephone call-in information, please submit such request in writing to the Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the meeting time so that we may ensure a quorum, or to the extent possible.

Submitted by Maieta Clark, Secretary, September 30th, 2018.