

Mountain Sun Community School Board

Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2018

Open Session

2:00-3:10 p.m.

Members Present: Michael, Dilshad, Jennifer, Lauren, Linda, J, Melissa, Mary, Joy, Meighan, Kevin, Nicole, Jessica

Dilshad chaired the meeting and Linda recorded minutes.

Approval of September open minutes

- These will be reviewed and approved at the November meeting.

Community Meeting Plans

- The community meeting will be on November 4th from approximately 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- The Strategic Plan activity the board did at our retreat today will be repeated with parents at the community meeting.
- Suggestions for facilitating this activity include:
 - Use mixed grade groups
 - Make it visual, e.g., a display from each group
 - Do not share the board's results until after parent groups have reported
 - Since there is a potential for 152 attendees (parents and staff) drop the magazine clip art component
 - After parent groups create their displays, a board member will meet with each group to be a sounding board/debriefing agent
- Childcare will be provided during the community meeting for ages 3 and up. Dilshad will check on possibly using the BMC Library as the childcare setting.
- The community meeting agenda will include:
 - Review of the current Strategic Plan and what has been accomplished
 - Activity for brainstorming about new Strategic Plan
 - A review of some MSCS financials, e.g., pie charts (not too detailed in the information shared)

Executive Director's report

- Personnel Matters:
 - Check-in meetings have been completed with faculty.
 - Ellie's Montessori professional development has been helpful for faculty and Michael. She will return on October 10 for 4 days, including a Saturday.
 - Faculty work days will be October 25-26. One day will be used to focus on Positive Discipline and one day will be used to address teachers' individual priorities.
- Parent/Staff/Community Pulse:
 - Trivia Night with Nick at Peaks and Creeks was a fun time. It is suggested that this become a regular MSCS activity on Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
 - Elder Day was a great success with 64+ participating in a Community Centering with a brief presentation on MSCS "5 words" from Michael.
 - It was noted that picnic tables are not the best seating for elders.
 - Each participant will be sent a fund-raising letter in a couple of months.

- Mountain Song Festival was a good community outreach activity. MSCS was also well-represented at the benefit fundraiser for the Transylvania County St. Balderdash Children’s Cancer organization. MSCS raised \$2,000 while overall \$17,000 was raised.
- Halloween activities will be on Saturday, October 27th in downtown Brevard. MSCS will have a booth; activities include Sesame St. as part of the Early Childhood Initiative and mobile play groups.
- Work continues on the Natural Play Initiative with a memo of understanding among the partners and development of a survey for teachers and parents.
- Recruitment/Retention Update:
 - MSCS enrollment is now 82 with the addition of a new Otter. Michael will follow up on other potential enrollees around the first of the year.
 - The “Explore” video was posted last Friday.
- Other School Matters:
 - The recent Acorn camp-out was held at Straus due to the weather. The Coyotes 4-day canoe outing was supported by Headwaters (who provided canoes) and Brevard College outdoor exploration staff/students (who provided paddling instruction on Sonata Lake).
 - The NC Board of Education will visit MSCS on Wednesday, October 3rd. They have sent a checklist which includes some information that is not readily available at MSCS, e.g., vaccination data on students. It is expected that this official process will include (1) on-site visit; (2) findings based on the visit; (3) letter from NCBBoE; and (4) time to address any issues raised, e.g., 30-60 days.
- Fund-raising Activities
 - TAG planning is in progress. A grant was turned into TDA; sub-committees will be set up to handle different aspects of TAG
 - Trade for Tots clothing consignment will be Saturday, October 6 from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Help to clean up around 2:00 will be appreciated.
 - Friends of Mountain Sun letters will go out on November 1. Dilshad requested that each board member submit names and write a personal note on the letters to their names.

Next meeting

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, November 7.

The meeting continued into closed session.

The meeting reconvened in open session.

The meeting was adjourned.