

Mountain Sun Community School Board Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2019

Open Session: 5:45 p.m. – 8:10 p.m.

Members Present: Michael, Dilshad, Jennifer, Joy, Nicole, Melissa, Kevin, Meighan, Brigid, Mary

Dilshad chaired the meeting and Joy took notes.

Approval of March Open Minutes:

The March 13 minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections.

Fundraising update:

- Meighan reported that the Trade for Tots consignment sale was successful making a little over \$1,200.
- She met with Michael regarding moving forward with the fundraising committee and discussed parents who would be a good fit for the committee. Meighan will reach out to those parents after spring break to get together and brainstorm for events for the next school year.
- The Friends of Mountain Sun will gather Thursday, April 11 for a luncheon at Linda's house.
- Plans are being made for the Spring Recital. Lake Toxaway will not be an option this year so the event will be on the BMC campus again. We are looking at May 20 or 22 to have the recital at the Alumni House and need to check availability with BMC.

Community Meeting:

- The community meeting was successful with a good amount of parents attending.
- Brigid said the faculty consensus was that the activities and discussions were on track with who we are. Also, teachers suggested that the meeting be held on a weekday evening in the future.
- We discussed the complexity of having the meeting on a weekend vs a weekday evening.
- It was noted that some parents expressed concern about varying levels of involvement.
- Melissa will consolidate the parent discussion notes from the meeting regarding what it means to "belong" and prepare a PDF to give out to parents.

Faculty Report:

- Brigid reported that the classroom collaboration among teachers has been nice.
- Our first Literary Character Day was a success and fun.
- The Talent Show was also a success and had a good turnout.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up after spring break.
- The Stanford 10 Achievement Test will be taken by Grades 3 and 6 in May. Those receiving the Opportunity Scholarship will have to take the test every year after 3rd grade. Next year 9th graders will also have to take it.

Executive Director's Report:

- Personnel Matters: Michael is currently meeting with faculty. There is a possibility of shifts in roles and responsibilities but the staff for next year is intact. The faculty is well-prepared for the end of the school year.
- Parent-Staff Feedback: Michael feels the Community Meeting was good. He is enjoying bringing new parents to visit the classrooms and says the school is presenting well. The classrooms are authentically beautiful and show who we are. We added another student and are now at 86 students.
- Recruitment/Retention: Currently we have 75 students enrolled so far for next year. We have more than that committed but Michael is tracking down deposits to make it official. He is looking into adding a credit card option for payment; however, there would be a convenience fee for using this.
- Outreach:

- TAG: people had fun and the 5K course was great, but in terms of participants, the numbers were down. The free kids' course was successful. The future of TAG was discussed at a follow-up meeting and it was decided that the 5K is not working. There may be opportunities for the kids' course tied in with other events.
- Michael attended a HHS lunch as a member of the Get Set panel that included representatives from the WNC region. It was an opportunity to meet key people including people from Pisgah Health and Dogwood Foundation who are investing in social determinants of health in which education plays a role.
- This Friday, April 12th, Michael will present at the Transylvania Natural Resource Council meeting. The topic is Kids in the Woods.
- Natural Play dates are underway and Michael had a great meeting with United Way's allocation team. We will wait to hear what happens with the project for next year.
- Michael and Dilshad had a positive meeting with BMC regarding the campus being MSCS's long-term home. They wanted to make sure we are part of BMC's long-term planning. They discussed long-term leases and keeping the square foot rental rate the same. We need to include a long-term lease as part of our new Strategic Plan.
- The initial draft of the NLI plan was reviewed with BMC; they are on board with the plans.
- Michael spoke recently with someone from HHS regarding a childcare license for full-day care/preschool. He was told that it is really not achievable for us. It would require a lot of updating of space and a large area for fenced outdoor play. He confirmed that if we are accredited we could offer full day without a childcare license but would not have access to the childcare subsidy.

Finances:

- Finances are on track. The number of students is up from the budget; however, grants are a little less and events are up-and-down. We have to make our fundraising goals in order to make budget.

The meeting continued into closed session.

The meeting reconvened in open session. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.