



# Mountainville Academy

## Board Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024

Notice is hereby given that the Mountainville Academy Board of Trustees will hold a Board Meeting and Executive Session at 195 S Main Street, Alpine, UT on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance - Janese Vance, Wayne Sleight, Stephanie Cotton-Betteridge, Jack Garzella, Mikelle Kennedy, Kevin Anglesey, Paxton Gray, Marisa Skousen, Kari Barney

Tanya College (on the phone)

Nate Adams – excused

Chandler weeks – came in at 7:29 pm

### BOARD MEETING

#### 1. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER at 7:03pm

1. Reverent Remarks by Paxton
2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – In attendance – Juliette Ensign, Kim Parker, Ardice Lorscheider, Amy Thackeray, Wes Funk, Jennifer Wadsworth, Bryan Taylor, Gary Goodrich

Public Comment is time for the public to give input to the board but is not a discussion time. Comments are limited to 1-2 minutes per individual. Individuals wishing to make a longer presentation to the board may request placement on the agenda by contacting the board secretary or chairperson. Administrative items, those regarding the day-to-day operation of the school, may be referred to the school director for resolution. Individuals who have previously met with the school director and still have concerns should feel free to participate in the public comment portion of the meeting.

Wayne offered an overview of the Carlisle Property recent developments and invited public comments from the audience.

Juliette Ensign - commented on the history of the house. She mentioned she was a teacher at MVA where her children also attended. She mentioned the somewhat negative reception by the community of the additional traffic when the school was built and now with the Carlisle House situation. Does not fault MVA about the house but wants to emphasize that the community has resources and would like to work with all involved to save the house.

Kim Parker - commented on the history of the house. She stated that MVA has a PR problem now and if MVA were to demolish the house, the school's reputation would be scarred for life. Just like Alpine School District's reputation never recovered from its decision to demolish the original Mountainville school in Alpine. She offered her help to keep MVA out of its' PR problem. As an interior designer, she would propose her help to collaborate with a builder and the city engineer to restore the house. Will encourage the school with the city and exchange lots if possible. Imitation is what you do when you fail to preserve history.

Ardice Lorscheider – thanked the board and those who reached out. She had gained a deeper appreciation for the history of the House lately. Her father was an architect for the LDS Church in terms of historical home. She believes that with community involvement we can help restore and preserve the history outline in the house. 170 years since Carlisle built the home. Solutions will not happen fast but will need to look a little deeper to find solutions that will benefit the school and community alike. She understands the House is a liability for the school, but she also sent a letter to the school’s board mentioning that this is a rare moment to preserve the history of the house. Share the light of the house just like the Carlisle family physically share their light to traveling strangers.

Amy Thachery – handed out a written statement after her comments. Amy mentioned MVA has a PR problem now, but the educational value offered by the school enriched her children’s life by giving them a great head-start in life and one of her children is now going to Duke University. She would like to invite MVA to go back to its founding principle and encourage the learning of history from our own community. Also invite MVA to be a community partner. She closed by encouraging the school to strongly consider the path of involving the city to find a way forward for Carlisle House.

Wes – passed his turn to comment.

Jennifer Wadsworth – introduced herself and communicated that she recently formed non -profit with three general members for the goal of organizing a children’s library in the restored Carlisle House. The vision for the library will be to put a children’s library on the ground floor of the House leaving the second floor for school’s activities. Her non-profit would act in partnership with similar libraries such as the Children Vineyard Library and organizations such as the Utah STEM Action Center to benefit the community and the school by virtue of its proximity to the proposed library. Alpine does not have a gathering place and would welcome a public open space. Jennifer would encourage the school to swap land with the city to accomplish the proposed idea.

Bryan Taylor – is a local architectural artist and visit cities to work on buildings, landscapes, and cityscapes. He mentioned that too often we see communities trade culture or sacrifice history for convenience. The Carlisle House is a flashpoint of culture. A decision to preserve the House will define the culture of this town. Bryan asked if this group would step up to show that we value history and culture as a community? What will others in the future will say about this town?

Gary Goodrich – married to a Carlisle family member: Mary Carlisle. His father was a member of the LDS Church stake presidency when the local celebrated tabernacle was destroyed by fire. But leaders preserved the tabernacle later and he is grateful that they did. He mentioned that this is a community of wealthy donors, and we should find a way to preserve the House.

3. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT - None

4. CONSENT AGENDA - Minutes 11.16. 2023 – Marisa moved we accept the minutes from the 10.26. 2023 meeting as presented with minor correction for scrivener’s errors. Paxton seconded.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Wayne	None
Tanya (on the phone)	
Kevin	
Jack	
Kari	
Mikelle	
Stephanie	
Paxton	
Marisa	

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Training - ~~Governing Board serving as Trust Land Council Stewardship~~ USBE School LAND Trust ~~<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6O1FdVNjvJw>~~ - did not conduct the training due to lack of time.

B. Director's Report - Janese extended offered to families for enrollment. 722 students. We might need to offer half-day kindergarten because of demand from twenty-nine families who would prefer to have the half day option. Highest number of demands for half day for the school.

School safety- Janese was pleased to announce that thirty-six new cameras were installed in the school with six cameras on the outside parking lot. The staff will get training done on how to use and monitor these cameras. The main monitors are in the office. All this work was completed over the Christmas break. The plan is to put in a new vestibule on the main entryway where all will have to enter through the office. The vestibule will be bulletproof glass along with all windows and entrances on the main floor of the school. They will use a key fob door entry system for all staff, security signage, classroom cameras. This is in connection with an \$80,000 grant allocation the school applied for and won from the state and the fundraiser we organized last year to install new audio and camera system in the classrooms and to bullet proofing all the first-floor doors and windows.

Janese informed the board of additional work on the bathrooms renovation where we had new flooring and urinals installed.

With the teachers, they recreated the STEM vision plans for the school. Stem night in two weeks with activities involving parents and students. Will also get training help from the state.

S&P training will happen on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January at 3pm via zoom or at the school.

Jason received a 3,000 grant for film.

### C. Committee Reports

- i. Executive – met and talked about the house's concerns.
- ii. Academic Excellence - met last Thursday for academic plan that will need to be approved in March. The committee will continue to work on that.
- iii. Finance – did not meet yet. But Kevin met with Alta Bank's manager on the potential easement for a 12-foot easement lane for open grass space. Want to be an active member of the community and want to make it work with the bank. Explained all this to the bank. Petition the bank and waiting to hear back from the bank. Will need to confirm with Nate that we opened the high interest account.

Paxton asked about .... Kevin will coordinate to have the school inspected for a bid.... Will have a \$2m grant available for the creation of a STEM Center. Will be good to have the direction of the board for mainly teachers,

Will need to vote on budget, facilities. ... for the moment, the direction is towards a stem center, gym center not as important. Not building on the gym just change the space to facilitate a full working cafeteria in connection with the gym. Main floor this coming summer and next floors in the coming years.

- iv. Development – Wayne we met. Last month and discussed the swig fundraiser. Chipotle tonight had 33% profits. Chic-fi-a will follow, looking at selling ads on the fence to businesses in the community. Also discussed the Vision committee will now be a part of the development committee. No longer have a need to be a separate committee since its purpose falls under the development committee.

- v. Governance – Discussion on Governor's Request to Remove Cell Phones from Classrooms – Tanay over the phone presented the school's policy and if we need to review it considering the new cell phone ban from the state governor. Most felt we already have a good policy in place re cell phones, but left room open to current ideas from all about the cell phones. Discussed smartwatches. The purpose of the cell phone ban is to protect against harm of social media and online distraction. Watches with no online capabilities will fall under the same policy the school has in place for distractions in the classroom and those

with online capabilities will fall under the policies for cell phone. Will remind parents, students, and teachers of the expected standards for the electronics in the classrooms.

Camera policy – now that we have new cameras in place, we will need to specifically address the associated policies. Jason drafted a policy he found from another school’s policy to address rules for the new cameras installed such as will the cameras be mandated to be always on, or the audio on always. Might need to update other policies addressing sound policies as well to adjust to a new standard of being always recorded. Will put the camera policy and cell phone policies on the agenda for next month.

vi. Technology – did not meet.

vii. FSO – met and discussed reading event– Reading between the Lions – Limoncello ... fun ways to get kids reading with activities, interactive games. Also discussed the teacher’s lunch during assessment week. Started to work on upcoming February events such as grandparents’ day...

D. New Board Member Applications and Interviews – Dan Jimenez – introduced himself. Moved to alpine in 1999 and attended Lone Peak high school. Has four kids at the school. Likes MVA’s principles. The leader in me program really resonate with his family. Dan is an entrepreneur and tech engineer who own Chatbook Company. He is interested to be involved and to do right by the students.

Marisa – what committee he would be interested in – finance, technology.

Jack – do you feel like you are able to separate your personal biases from the board interest as a parent. Dan mentioned he has no agenda comes for the interest of education understand the importance of separating his interest form the interest of his business for example but understand fiduciary responsibility.

Kevin – what do you think the school could improve on? Dan responded that School lunches, STEM program could use some improvements.

E. New Board Member Appointments and Votes – Chandler Weeks – Jack submitted his letter of resignation earlier today after 15 years of service on the board. Jack feels like the board is in good shape with great candidates. Based on Jack resignation, the board will move to vote Chandler Weeks as a new board member.

Paxton – will move to the appointed position and the board members will vote to move Chandler into the elected position. The elected position holder will need to be reelected in May during the General Membership Meeting.

F. New School Property/Carlisle Property updates and developments

## 6. ACTION ITEMS

A. New Board Member Applications an Interviews – Dan Jimenez

E. New Board Member Appointments and Votes – Chandler Weeks – Marisa moved to appoint Paxton into the appointed board member position. Jack seconded.

**Ayes**

Wayne  
Tanya (on the phone)  
Kevin  
Jack  
Kari  
Mikelle  
Stephanie  
Paxton  
Marisa

**Nays**

None

Marisa moved that we elect Chandler Weeks as a new board member in the elected position vacated by Paxton. Paxton seconded.

**Ayes**

Wayne  
Tanya (on the phone)

**Nays**

None

Kevin  
Jack  
Kari  
Mikelle  
Stephanie  
Paxton  
Marisa

C. New School Property/Carlisle Property updates and developments

7. CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION –

The Board will consider a motion to close the meeting to hold a strategy session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation, and/or to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, and/or the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual in conformance with § 52-4-204 and 52-4-205 et. seq., Utah Code Ann.

Marisa moved we go into closed session to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property at 8:17. Additionally, Marisa invited Wes Funk and Juliette Ensign to attend the closed discussion.

<u>Aves</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Wayne	None
Tanya (on the phone)	
Kevin	
Jack (abstained)	
Kari	
Mikelle	
Stephanie	
Paxton	
Chandler	
Marisa	

Closed session at 9:12. Open session

8. ACTION ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION – None - Closed session ended at 9:12. Reopened the regular open session.

9. ADJOURN – Jack moved we adjourned following the open session reopening.

The public is welcome to attend Mountainville Academy Board Meetings. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those needing special assistance or accommodations should contact the secretary at [sbetteridge@malions.org](mailto:sbetteridge@malions.org), giving at least one working day notice.