

**Maria Montessori Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2014**



Location: 2505 N. 200 E.
North Ogden, UT 84414

In Attendance: Preston Allen, Joan Effiong, Loma Prince, Dore Elmer

Others in Attendance: Stephanie Speicher (Director), Kim Dohrer (AW), Kara Finley (AW), Ryan Arrington (AW), Sandi Weber (AW)

The mission of Maria Montessori Academy is to provide an individualized grade K-9 education that promotes academic excellence founded on the authentic philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori. MMA will craft each child's education in partnership with educators and parents to achieve higher levels of academic, personal and social achievement, thereby preparing students to become constructive contributors to their community.

MINUTES

5:52 PM – CALL TO ORDER by Preston Allen

CONSENT ITEMS

- **Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes**
Dore Elmer made a motion to approve the November 12, 2013 Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes; Loma Prince seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **New Hires**
Stephanie Speicher reviewed the positions the new hires will be filling at the school. Joan Effiong made a motion to approve Yana Sprague, April Bench, Kylee Cummings, and Leslie Mellinger as New Hires; Dore Elmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comments were made.

REPORTS

- **MAPA Update**
A MAPA Ski Night will be held on January 22nd and parents will be providing transportation and supervision of students. The Gala will be on March 22nd and art projects are being started. The MAPA Bylaws will be amended to match the Articles of Incorporation for the 501(c)(3) application.
Kim Dohrer arrived at 5:58 PM.
- **Directors Report**
Staff received a full day of professional development on assessments. The Safety

Committee is creating strategies and solutions that will be presented to the Board to improve the safety of students and faculty.

In December a 6th Grade Dinner and Talent Show was held. The Building Connections breakfast will be postponed to next year. Grace and courtesy is being implemented monthly into the classroom and is being shared with the school community through the newsletter and blog. The school is going to be advertising in the Walker Cinema for the next four months and is going to be adopting a bird at the Ogden Nature Center. The school has scheduled the Maturation Program and the consent form will be provided to parents along with the curriculum.

- **Budget Report**

Ryan Arrington reviewed the budget with the Board and the surplus included. The communications were accrued for the year and the budget is in good shape overall. Ryan Arrington commended the Director for being fiscally aware and building a good cash reserve.

VOTING ITEMS

- **2013-2014 FY Budget**

Loma Prince made a motion to approve the amended 2013-2014 FY Budget; Dore Elmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Directors Report**

Enrollment and the lottery was discussed including the Intent to Enroll forms being sent out to families. The proposed 2014-2015 calendar was presented along with the variations and similarities to the local school district.

VOTING ITEMS

- **Sixth Grade Field Trip Expenses**

The expenses for the sixth grade field trip were reviewed including the cost for chaperones.

The Sixth Grade Field Trip Expenses vote was tabled.

- **Human Sexuality Curriculum and Presenter**

Joan Effiong made a motion to approve the Human Sexuality Curriculum and Presenter; Dore Elmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Portables**

The Portables vote was tabled.

- **Acceptable Use Policy for Staff**

The new standards from the state were discussed and the need for the school to revise the policy to adapt to the new technology and content available. Until the policy is revised, the Director will adopt procedures for the staff.

The Acceptable Use Policy for Staff vote was tabled.

- **UAPCS Membership**

Stephanie Speicher reviewed the membership cost and the role that the organization serves for charter schools. The school will not join for this school year but will review

it for the 2014-2015 school year next fall.
The UAPCS Membership vote was tabled.

- **Dress Code Committee Formation**

The Board discussed the need to revise the Dress Code Policy and how the committee should be created. Preston Allen and Joan Effiong will be members of the committee.

The Dress Code Committee vote was tabled.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **AdvancED Accreditation**

Kim Dohrer discussed the accreditation process with AdvancEd and the committee will be coming to MMA in 2015-2016. The standards, indicators, and sample evidence that will need to be collected was examined.

- **Building Use Policy**

Stephanie Speicher asked for input regarding renting the school facilities to outside organizations. She will continue to evaluate if it is feasible to allow outside groups to utilize the building and have insurance.

- **Charter Effectiveness Goals 3 & 4**

The Board reviewed the third and fourth effectiveness goal included in the charter application. The state assessments were reviewed and the Director will present on academic progress at the February Board Meeting.

- **Mid-Year Survey Results**

Dore Elmer reviewed the results of the parent and staff satisfaction surveys. She provided an overview of the highest scoring areas as well as areas where the school could improve. The curriculum for the junior high program and how parents are feeling was discussed. Parent education nights, topics, and the ability to record and post for those who aren't able to attend was evaluated. Other discussion items included communication, lunch services, and the classroom structure. The staff survey showed that employees feel valued, the Director is approachable, and teachers would like more time for preparation.

- **Board Composition**

The Board is still accepting applications for Board Members and would like to reach out to interested parties to encourage them to apply.

- **Action Items**

The Board reviewed the action items and newly assigned action items.

- **Calendaring**

- Board Meeting February 11, 2014 at 5:30 PM

BOARD TRAINING

- Charter School Board University Chapter 12 training was tabled.

CLOSED SESSION

- The Closed Session was tabled.

ADJOURN

- Joan Effiong made a motion to approve the Board Meeting; Dore Elmer seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.
Board Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.