

MCPM Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Mission: Mountain City Public Montessori provides equitable access to a high-quality, relevant Montessori education to meet the needs of all students and to strengthen our community.

Vision: At Mountain City Public Montessori, we believe all students deserve access to a quality education that affirms each individual and enhances the collective by giving them an opportunity to practice living in and contributing to a more just society.

DATE	MEETING NAME
5/15/2024 - Virtual May Meeting	
ATTENDEES–MCPM Board of Directors	
Present: Wren Cook Dawn Meskil Lara Lustig Aaron Brumo Stella Plato Jerick Wilson Maegan Brown Jaclyn Farley Jeffrey Kaplan Susannah Vance Gopalan	Absent:
ATTENDEES–Others	
Brittany Wager - Operations Director Rachael Shaw Marshall - Curriculum Director Courtney Sullivan - Little Grove Preschool Director	

TIME	CALL TO ORDER
7:03 pm	Called to order by: Wren Roll Call Quorum (need 6/10): we have quorum with 10/10 board members present <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px; border: 1px solid #ccc; display: inline-block;"> 📄 MCPM Mission and Vision, Ethics Statment, & Pledge to the Earth.pdf </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mission Statement read by Maegan Brown - Ethics Statement read by Dawn Meskil

	- Pledge to the Earth read by Jaclyn Farley
	APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES
7:06 pm	<p>Approval of 5-15-24 agenda and 2024-5-1 Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Susannah moves to adopt tonight’s agenda, Dawn seconds. With no amendments, the agenda will run as stated.</p> <p>Aaron moves to approve the minutes from the May 1st meeting, Jeffery seconds. With no corrections, the minutes are approved.</p>
	PUBLIC COMMENT
7:10 pm	<p style="text-align: center;">If you would like to submit public comments please email board@mountaincitypublic.org by noon on the day of the meeting with a request to speak in person or with text of comments to be submitted to the public record.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Comments: 2024-5-15 Public Comment.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from Heather Laine Talley
	DIRECTORS’ REPORTS
7:12 pm	<p>Director report</p> <p>Operations and Finance Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We received our state EC funding this week, it had been held up due to an error on their end. We also received our Title 1 funding this week, it hasn’t hit the account yet but should by the end of the fiscal year. - We have not yet received IDEA funding, and the application for next year is due at the end of the month. Brittany is following up with several folks at DPI to troubleshoot. - There has been a little movement for enrollment spots, those spots are being offered and accepted this week. - There have been a few job offers and acceptances. Interviews are moving and we have some great candidates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Hires! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kirsten Cole accepted Social Worker/ Nautilus Lead - Leigh Ann Carracio accepted Lower Elementary (Flame Azalea) Lead <p>Curriculum director report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Context of what is happening in classrooms

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Classrooms are anticipating the new school year and summer. We are preparing transitioning students (those moving to the next level) by classroom visits. There are 11 days of school left. - It's been harder for students to engage in the full 3-hour work cycle, responding by having some special activities to give some fresh changes at their level - EOG Testing is starting on Friday - Students are getting ready for transitions to new classrooms and are able to visit the next class to see where they will be next year. Staff has been looking at classroom changes since spring break, to see where students will move to be mindful of how those shifts will best serve the student and class. - Upcoming Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May 16th (tomorrow) will be the book signing event with Elizabeth Slade - May 24th will be our first family picnic to celebrate end of our first year
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PRESCHOOL PARTNER UPDATE	
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7:29 pm	<p>Guest Speaker: Courtney Sullivan, Director of Little Grove Preschool</p> <p>Background on our partnership with LGP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner with MCPM to create full classrooms for the primary level (ages 3-6) - Charter schools are unable to offer preschool (3 and 4 year old) education in their first year - Courtney was involved from the early conversations when our charter was being written, she presented to MCPM in those early days to create a preschool that could be built at the same time. - Students are placed across two primary classrooms, we share 20 students and 5 staff members (2 leads, 2 assistants, and a floater). The shared employees are paid by both MCPM and LGP. - LGP families pay tuition and it is a private business. The tuition is for staff salaries and student lunches. - LGP is unlicensed so they can't receive state funding. <p>What the first year has been like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It has been magical to be part of this first year! - Thank you (and the community) for the outpouring of love during teacher appreciation week as we close out this first year. - First-year successes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are very close to the end of the first year with real children who are learning and have very happy families. - A recently sent out family survey had a very positive response. - 11 out of 11 students will be returning preschoolers, and 6 out of 8 rising K students have applied and been accepted to MCPM. - Team has really come together in this first year. It was a big lift to have a full classroom of brand-new kids come together so positively. - Challenges for the first year
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- Learning and building systems as a brand new school
- Navigating the first year of being a school and partnering with MCPM, figuring out how to define roles for everyone involved. Work with Sarah Brown is planned for this summer to work together even more.
- Understanding the reality of blurred lines between preschool and kindergarten.
- Mid-year student changes and staff shifts.
- Feedback from students, staff, and families about lunch was such that LGP will restructure the schedule next year to allow preschoolers to eat lunch with their caregiver after school hours. By eliminating preschool lunch for next year, there will be more time for students to engage in learning and create more room in the budget for other priorities, like staff salaries and student scholarships. There will be a space for preschool families to enjoy lunch together after the half-day program concludes but next year it will not be in the schedule or budget.

Questions from the board:

- Wren asks what is enrollment like for next year?

During open enrollment period:

- 64 applications. 11 spots available (3 y.o. Cohort only)
- Updated 5/9: 75 applications
- All of the current 3 year olds are staying at LGP for next year, leaving 8 open spots.

Of those offered enrollment (in initial round):

- 6 of 11 racial minority. 55%
- 3 economically disadvantaged/financial aid. 27% (in addition to the 2 already enrolled, for a total of 5 families receiving financial aid; 23% total. Exceeds our contractual obligation)
- 2 LG siblings, 3 MCPM siblings, 1 MCPM staff child. 55%

Of all who applied;

- 20 self-identified as some race other than white - 27%
 - Of those, only 3 self identified as Black (and some other race)
- 13 requested financial assistance - 21%

Some families declined their enrollment offer, and some accepted but never followed through with paperwork. Placement is still in flux.

Of those who declined, reasons were: already enrolled elsewhere; half day was

	<p>challenging; sibling didn't get into MCPM</p> <p>Current enrollment - 8 new enrolled, with 2 BIPOC (25%). Intentionally allowing 2 spots to remain open for now to see if we can get more diversity.</p> <p>–</p> <p>Wren expressed on behalf of the board a big thank you Courtney for taking on this challenge so that our K students can have the experience of being in a multi-age classroom. Courtney replied with appreciation for approving the priority for LGP students to continue at MCPM as it will ease the transition for those students and staff in future years.</p>
	BUDGET APPROVAL
7:55 pm	<p>Final Budget Presentation (Lara Lustig)</p> <p>ACTION: 24-25 Budget Approval</p> <p>The finance committee moves to approve the 2024-2025 budget, Susannah seconds. With unanimous approval, the budget is approved.</p>
	BOARD APPLICATION PROCESS
8:00 pm	<p>Policy and Board Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Application deadline extended to June 5 ● PBD will make recommendations to the board within the following week to be reviewed asynchronously ● Board will discuss and make decisions at June 19 board meeting ● Onboarding will take place prior to July 10 board retreat
	OFFICER NOMINATIONS
8:03 pm	<p>Process Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Executive Committee receives nominations to each position prior to the board meeting ● The ExComm will bring the slate of candidates to the board for approval ● The nominations require a second motion ● The officer elections will be held at the June meeting where new directors are elected. <p>Executive Committee Nominations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wren Cook ● Vice-Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dawn Mendonca Meskil ● Treasurer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lara Lustig

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secretary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stella Plato
	COMMITTEE UPDATES
8:06 pm	<p>Executive Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are going to be sharing the load of the prework before board meetings. Dawn will be taking the lead on problem-solving and preparing for conversations in the Board meetings. Please contact her if you need to bring a conversation to a board meeting. - Lara attended the staff directorate meeting today to talk about 12-month salaries in the future. There is a runway of time for how soon a change could happen (it would require a policy change and board vote). Rachael also shared that the staff appreciated having their concern heard and a response from the board and look forward to more work being done and conversations ahead.
	ANNOUNCEMENTS
8:11 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A link was shared to RSVP (and volunteer) at the end-of-year family picnic next Friday. ● Please come to the Elizabeth Slade book signing event tomorrow. ● Instead of our June 5th board meeting, we will have an end-of-year celebration with staff. ● Community event to keep in mind: City of Asheville is doing a free store, there is one more day to donate items (tomorrow) and the store will be open this weekend. Lara will send out more details.
	ADJOURNMENT
8:16 pm	Dawn moves to adjourn, Jerick seconds, the meeting is adjourned.

Approved by the MCPM Board of Directors on June 19th, 2024.