

Montessori Academy
Governing Board Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 5:30 PM

6050 N Invergordon Rd, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253 Room 11

1. Call to order
 - a. 5:30pm
2. Record Member Attendance (roll-call or observed)
 - a. Voting Members: Dr. George Wood, Nicholas Toronto, Maegan Dixon, Jennifer Dunn, Kara Tustin: quorum present 5/8.
 - b. Absent: Dr Jeffery Trent, Debra Berkey, Henri Cournand
 - c. Non-Voting Member(s) present: Juli Newman, Krista Cross (Executive Board Representatives)
3. Initial Call for Public Comment on Agendized and Non-Agendized Items (two-minute limit per speaker/topic)
 - a. Kara Tustin expressed her desire to keep health and nutrition a large part of the school's culture. The bringing of "birthday treats", such as cupcakes and donuts is not aligned with the school's policies. The policy currently allows for "low sugar treat or non-edible party favor". It is not being enforced. It is not fair to have the teachers enforce, but perhaps having a stricter policy would be appropriate. The topic will be placed on the June agenda. All comments may be forwarded to Juli Newman, Executive Director or any Advisory Council (Governing Board Committee) Member prior to the meeting for consideration.
4. Acknowledgments/Introductions : Maegan Dixon acknowledged Jennifer Dunn and Kara Tustin for their work on POMA and conducting a positive first meeting. Jennifer Dunn acknowledged Nick Toronto for putting together three fabulous Big Trips for the students. The kids were engaged and never wanted to come home! Jennifer Dunn also thanked everyone at the school for their commitment and dedication through the very last day of the school year. The expectations remain high and the support throughout the year has been incredible.
5. Old Business (actual visitation order to be determined by the Chair)
 - a. Review/Approval of April 19, 2017 meeting minutes – Nick Toronto moved to accept the minutes as presented, Jennifer Dunn seconded. Approved 5-0.

- b. Events- Meagan Dixon reviewed upcoming events: We are having a second Book Fair this week and the students are learning what it means to get one book (of equal or lessor) value. Great practical life and encouraging summer reading at the same time. Speech finals for Senior Elementary students are tomorrow. There are twelve finalists speaking on their own topic. Nick Toronto encouraged the school to video the speeches and post them on POMA. Discussion: perhaps Sr. Elementary can record all of them and have students edit to create clips of the speeches and maybe the complete winning speech. Maegan Dixon will follow up on this. The Middle School Dance is on Thursday night. The current 7th and 8th graders invited the current 6th graders to join them as a transition into Middle School. Activities week is next week. Program levels have sent out their schedules. Everyone is encouraged to attend the 8th grade graduation next Wednesday at 6:00pm on the sport court under the tent. SMART Camp begins in June for 8 weeks.
 - c. Parent Group Meeting: Jennifer Dunn and Kara Tustin were happy with the turn out and interest in the first meeting. It was a positive and informative meeting. One parent brought flowers and administration provided refreshments. The atmosphere was that of love and support. One parent volunteered to be the phone caller for volunteers. Others were very interested in volunteer opportunities. Several parents have asked for minutes of the meeting. The Advisory Council members and Executive Director agreed that POMA meetings should be more informal and provide highlights via the POMA site, but formal minutes are not needed. This may also encourage more parents to attend the meetings versus just reading minutes.
6. New Business (actual visitation order to be determined by the Chair)
- a. Juli Newman expressed urgency in getting the strategic planning process started. Nick Toronto suggested June 17, 2017. All agreed to meet at Juli Newman's home on said date from 8:00 to noon. The Executive Board members will provide the data on our current plan and set up the planning format. A follow up meeting will be included in the regularly scheduled AC meeting in June.
 - b. Juli Newman reviewed the draft FY18 school calendar. The Gala date was discussed and resolved to leave it on April 7, 2018. The Parent Orientation, 2 hour block, was discussed. Administration would like feedback on setting the time for either 7-9am or 4-6pm. POMA will post to see if parents have a preference. Juli Newman proposed to move the AC meetings to the last Wednesday of most months versus the third Wednesday. Making this change would allow faculty members to come the AC meetings directly after their own monthly meeting. They would not have two late nights in the month. Jennifer Dunn moved to have Advisory Council Meetings on the last Wednesday of most months, Maegan Dixon seconded. 5-0 approved.
 - c. Juli Newman handed out the AZ School Finance schedule for budgets and reporting. There were no May revisions on the FY17 budget. The FY18 proposed budget is being worked on,

but the forms from the state are not yet available. Hopefully the budget will be able to be presented on the June 28, 2018. There will be an additional meeting to approve the adopted budget before the July 15th deadline.

7. Executive Board Report: Juli Newman
 - a. Appointments to the Advisory Committee
 - i. The Executive Board is reviewing several resumes and will interview the candidates before appointing a member. If the Advisory Board has input, please send it to Juli Newman as soon as possible.
 - ii. The school has signed the bond resolution agreements to start the process of refinancing the bonds. We have also requested a \$300,000 facilities reserve account.
8. Final Call for Public Comment on Agendized and Non-Agendized Items (two-minute limit per speaker/topic) – moved out of order – before Executive Session to provide the public the opportunity to speak and not wait for the Executive Session to conclude.
 - a. George Wood asked about the status of the High School. Juli Newman is still working on the paperwork and will have it submitted by June 1, 2017. Krista Cross took the opportunity to share about our meeting with Dr. Elder, the Project Director of Montessori Live. The meeting focused on creating a Montessori High School, possible partnership, and Montessori Academy becoming a training site. Dr. Elder has previously developed a Montessori High School in Florida.
9. Set date for next School Governing Board Committee meeting. (typically 3rd Weds of a month- just voted to change to last Weds of month)
 - a. Regular Meeting has been set for June 28, 2017.
10. Adjournment
 - a. Maegan Dixon moved to adjourn. Nick Toronto seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:17pm.

The next IRREGULAR Advisory Council meeting will be held June 17, 2017 at 8:00am; at 6044 N Quail Run Rd. Paradise Valley, AZ 85253. The next REGULAR Advisory Council meeting will be held June 28, 2017, 5:30pm at 6050 N Invergordon Rd, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253, in Room 11 or other such accommodations as may be appropriate. If members interested in attending desire telephone call-in information, please submit such request in writing to the Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the meeting time so that we may ensure a quorum, to the extent possible.

Submitted by Juli Newman, Interim Secretary Revision "A": May 18, 2017