

SWAN RIVER MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

The school board will hold this meeting in person at Swan River Montessori Charter School with social distancing and optional masking in place. An option to join via Zoom will also be available, but all board members will attend in person.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85085506443?pwd=QUN2VURBSUR5OVFXOEJCdU1zZlljdz09>

Meeting ID: 850 8550 6443

Passcode: y2J6hm

Meeting Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER by Franco Fanucci at 5:34 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

- a. Board members present: Franco Fanucci, Amy Bergquist-Savage, Amy Jensen, Julie Halvorson, Lynn Arnsdorf, Liza Thomas - board has a quorum
- b. Board members absent: Bill Anderson
- c. Other attendees: Community & Staff via zoom and in person

III. REVIEW OF SRMCS VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS- read aloud by Fanucci

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA- Motion to approve agenda by Jensen with amendment to add under new business, training for new Montessori teachers, 2nd by Arnsdorf, roll call for votes: Fanucci-aye, Bergquist-Savage-aye, Halvorson-aye, Jensen-aye, Arnsdorf-aye; motion carries

V. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS- none

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. 6.15.21 Minutes- Motion to approve by , 2nd by, roll call for votes: Fanucci-aye, Bergquist-Savage-aye, Halvorson-aye, Jensen-aye, Arnsdorf-aye; motion carries
- b.
- c. 6.28.21 Minutes- Motion to approve by , 2nd by roll call for votes: Fanucci-aye, Bergquist-Savage-aye, Halvorson-aye, Jensen-aye, Arnsdorf-aye; motion carries

VII. COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- a. SRMCS parent spoke in favor of optional masking.
- b. SRMCS parent shared that he opposes optional mask mandate
- c. Community member opposes mandatory masking and it should be optional
- d. SRMCS parent- opposes mandatory masking, wants it to be optional, doesn't want testing
- e. SRMCS parent- shared in favor of masking for all
- f. SRMCS parent (via Zoom)- shared feels strongly masking should be optional
- g. Comment via Zoom chat- parent shared they are pro masks being optional

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. June Financial Report – Motion to approve by Bergquist-Savage, 2nd by Halvorson- roll call for votes: Fanucci-aye, Bergquist-Savage-aye, Halvorson-aye, Jensen-aye, Arnsdorf-aye; motion carries
- b. July Financial Report – Motion to approve by Amy BS, 2nd by Halvorson- roll call for votes: Fanucci-aye, Bergquist-Savage-aye, Halvorson-aye, Jensen-aye, Arnsdorf-aye; motion carries
- c. Enrollment Numbers as of 8.20.21-
 - i. Charter School = 147- changes in enrollment since 8.20.21; now actual is 143
 - ii. Children’s House = 15
 - iii. Pupil Unit Budget/Actual = 145/147- actual as of board meeting is now 143
- d. Review of Bills- no discussion
- e. Donations-- no donations to approve

IX. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION REPORT AS RELATED TO CONTRACTED GOALS

Director Annette shared that Bill Anderson submitted goals to OW and are awaiting approval.

X. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REPORT AS RELATED TO CONTRACTED GOALS

Director Annette shared MCA data will not be released until August 26. Data cannot be shared until then. Will share at the next board meeting.

XI. STRATEGIC PLANNING & GOAL SETTING

- a. Professional development for staff- Director Annette shared Virginia Montessori Training Center will lead staff in Montessori basics and renewal during workshop week as well as other required trainings in Bloodborne Pathogens, Anti-Harassment & Bullying Policy, Civil Rights, and Employee Right To Know. Bergquist-Savage shared staff had first aid & CPR training today.
- b. Goals and professional development for the director- Director Annette will attend Montessori trainings given by Virginia Montessori training center and watch videos provided. She will report to the board at the next meeting.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Appointment of board roles-
 - i. chair/president - Motion by Jensen, 2nd Thomas- roll call votes:
 - ii. secretary- Motion by Bergquist Savage, 2nd Halvorson- roll call votes:
 - iii. treasurer- Motion by Halvorson, 2nd Thomas- roll call votes:
- b. Revised budget- Director Anette shared that we will have to revise budget at September meeting, needs to change based on staff pay changes and enrollment
- c. Approval of Newly Hired Employees
 - i. Julie Halvorson- Children’s House Lead
 - ii. Heidi Melo- E2 Lead
 - iii. Amy Klug- E2 Lead
 - iv. Amber Hedberg- Special Education
 - v. Kristin Steiskal- Special Education
 - vi. Sarah Anderson- Special Education
 - vii. 4 support staff

Director Annette shared she posted in multiple places, reached out to Montessori training programs and interviewed many teachers with a panel of staff and didn’t have any Montessori trained teachers apply. Thomas is concerned that these new Montessori teachers are not trained and who will oversee that their lessons are being taught properly. Fanucci agrees but finding teachers is difficult in general and it is better to have teachers that are willing to get trained. Jensen shared Director Annette did due diligence to find trained teachers and agrees that being passionate and willing to learn is important if not already Montessori trained. Arnsdorf agrees finding Montessori trained teachers is difficult and wants new teachers to get trained (have a deadline) and get support.

- d. Non-Returning Employees- Director Anette shared that 6 employees choose not to return

- e. Training for new Montessori teachers
 - i. CH \$2,375 from North American Montessori Training Center
 - ii. E2 \$6,800 per person over 18 months from the Center for Guided Montessori Studies
Motion to cover the training for Montessori leads with a written 4 year commitment to the school from hire date and they would have to pay back the training if they leave made by Bergquist-Savage, 2nd by Arnsdorf, roll call for votes: Fanucci-aye, Bergquist-Savage-aye, Halvorson-aye, Jensen-aye, Arnsdorf-aye, Thomas-aye; motion carries

f. Annual Designations

- iii. Depository – Sherburne Bank - Motion to designate Sherburne Bank as SRMC’s bank made by Jensen, 2nd by Bergquist Savage- roll call for votes: Fanucci-aye, Bergquist-Savage-aye, Halvorson-aye, Jensen-aye, Arnsdorf-aye, Thomas-aye; motion carries
- iv. Electronic Funds Transfers – Annette Vemuri, School Director – Motion to approve Director Annette Vemuri to make electronic funds transfer by Bergquist-Savage, 2nd by Jensen- roll call for votes: Fanucci-aye, Bergquist-Savage-aye, Halvorson-aye, Jensen-aye, Arnsdorf-aye, Thomas-aye; motion carries
- v. Communication – The SRMCS website: www.swanrivermontessori.org & parent mass email groups- Motion to approve the SRMCS website and parent mass email groups as SRMCS main communication platforms made by Jensen, 2nd Halvorson- roll call for votes: Fanucci-aye, Bergquist-Savage-aye, Halvorson-aye, Jensen-aye, Arnsdorf-aye, Thomas-aye; motion carries
- vi. World’s Best Workforce Plan FY22 – Director Anettee will check into this Plan
- f. Removal of Acting Director designations for Amy Jensen- Motion made to remove Amy Jensen as a signer with Sherburne Bank and as the IOWA made by Halvorson, 2nd Bergquist-Savage, roll call for votes: Fanucci-aye, Bergquist-Savage-aye, Halvorson-aye, Jensen-aye, Arnsdorf-aye, Thomas-aye; motion carries
- g. Face Covering Policy Review- Motion to modify face covering policy to make it optional until it is directed by the state made by Halvorson, 2nd by Bergquist-Savage- roll call for votes: Fanucci-aye, Bergquist-Savage-aye, Halvorson-aye, Jensen-aye, Arnsdorf-aye, Thomas-aye; motion carries

There was also a discussion of making the decision tree and expectations clear to parents as well as updates to how quarantining has changed. Director Anettee also shared school is approved by MDE to provide distance learning if class or school had to quarantine. Jensen will update the face covering policy.

- h. Wellness Policy Review – tabled until September. The Wellness Committee will be Vemuri, Halvorson, Savage and Jensen and will meet prior to the September board meeting
- i. Review of Employee Handbook – reviewed, no changes
- j. Review of Parent Handbook – reviewed, no changes
- k. Pledge of Allegiance Policy Review – reviewed, no changes
- l. Meal Charge Policy Review- reviewed, no changes
- m. COVID Vaccine and Testing options for schools- The school has no plans to host a covid vaccination clinic. At home testing kits are being provided by the state to have on hand to send home if the parent desires. The school will not administer covid tests to the students. Thomas brought up what will be done when a student is symptomatic - will they be masked then as they wait to be picked up? Where will they be? Students will be isolated in Director Anettee’s office in the 503 building. It was suggested to seek parent permission to mask at that point, but board did not motion to change optional mask policy. Thomas suggests Anettee updates Safe Learning Plan to be clear of procedures/expectations. Jensen suggested a Google Form for parents to fill out regarding masking preferences. Board agreed.
- n. Review of OW/SRMCS Contract Goals Exhibits G & H – reviewed by board
- o. Board Training review- Reminder to board to send Fanucci the training that was completed
- p. Annual Audit Update – audit is complete but not final. School was able to provide all documents the auditors requested. Final report will be presented to the board later in fall by a TAG representative.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. eLearning Plan & Policy- Motion to approve eLearning Plan and Policy made by Jensen, 2nd Thomas- roll call for votes: Fanucci-aye, Bergquist-Savage-aye, Halvorson-aye, Jensen-aye, Arnsdorf-aye, Thomas-aye; motion carries
- b. IOWA Board Resolution- signed- Jensen has been revoked as IOWA and Director Annette is the school IOWA

XIV. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - Fanucci asks to have this agenda item moved to under community comments from now on.

XV. REVIEW OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- a. Date, Time & Location of next Board Meeting – Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021 at 5:30 PM at Swan River Montessori in the 503 building music room
- b. Upcoming Agenda Items- Equal Educational Opportunity Policy
Purchasing Policy
Compensation for Substitutes Policy
Internet Acceptable Use & Safety Policy
Application & Enrollment Procedures Policy
List of Professional Development for Staff
Board Member Statements of Assurance- taken care of at 8.24.21 meeting

XVI. MOTION TO ADJOURN by Bergquist Savage, 2nd by Halvorson at 7:36 p.m.