

SWAN RIVER MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

School Board Meeting

Monday, May 16, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

The school board will hold this meeting in person at Swan River Montessori Charter School in the music room in the 503 Maple St. building with social distancing and optional masking in place. An option to join via Zoom will also be available.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82045920004?pwd=emFadTBHbnlxOWt6ck4yMDNkOktZz09>

Meeting Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER by Franco Fanucci at 5:33 PM

II. ROLL CALL

- a. Board Members Present: Franco Fanucci, Aaron Stone Street, Nicole Perez, Amy Jensen, Julie Halvorson, Amy Savage, Lynn Arnsdorf (virtual)
- b. Board Members Absent: none
- c. Other Attendees: Annette Vemuri, SRMCS Director; Jessica Frederiksen, SRMCS staff; Erin Anderson, Osprey Wilds

III. REVIEW OF SRMCS MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

The mission of Swan River Montessori Charter School is to provide a child-centered environment for self-directed and personalized learning in a small, community-based public school with an emphasis on the natural environment.

Swan River Montessori Charter School's vision is to employ an interdisciplinary approach to education by teaching the whole child (heart, mind, and soul). The Montessori learning environment is designed to foster this whole child approach by meeting the child's inherent needs of self-discovery, creativity, independence, and competence. Swan River Montessori Charter School will create a kind, respectful environment where each child has a sense of belonging. Learning at Swan River Montessori Charter School involves the student, the student's family, the teachers, and the larger community. Swan River supports family and community participation in each child's education by utilizing and appreciating community resources and the natural world as a learning environment.

- IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA-** Motion to approve agenda after moving Directors Letter of Employment to after the re-opening of the closed session made by Perez , Seconded by Stonestreet . Roll Call Vote- Fanucci-aye, Stonestreet-aye, Perez-aye, Jensen-aye, Halvorson-aye, Savage-aye, Arnsdorf-aye. Motion carried unanimously.

V. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS-none

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. 4.19.22 Minutes- Motion to approve by Halvorson, Seconded by Stonestreet. Roll Call Vote- Fanucci-aye, Stonestreet-aye, Perez-aye, Jensen-aye, Halvorson-aye, Savage-aye, Arnsdorf-aye. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. 5.5.22 Special Closed Meeting- Motion to approve by Stonestreet , Seconded by Savage. Roll Call Vote- Fanucci-aye, Stonestreet-aye, Perez-aye, Jensen-aye, Halvorson-aye, Savage-aye, Arnsdorf-aye. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. COMMUNITY COMMENTS - none

VIII. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - none

IX. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. April Financial Report – Revenue 66% of revised budget, expenses at 82% & target was 83%, cash flow remains healthy. Stonestreet asked about a \$12,000 “Missing Support” which Annette said was a replacement support for the broken slide. Stonestreet also asked about being over budget on the field trip line item. Board also found this odd and would like Dawn Jenkins to explain further. Motion to table April financials until we get clarity on these questions by Jensen, Seconded by Stonestreet. Roll Call Vote- Fanucci-aye, Stonestreet-aye, Perez-aye, Jensen-aye, Halvorson-aye, Savage-aye, Arnsdorf-aye. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Board approval to use Read-a-thon funds for FY 23- The school would like to use a portion of the Read-a-thon funds this year and next year for classroom materials and professional development in August of 2022. Stonestreet asked where the funds would come from if there wasn't Read-a-thon funds. Annette said that Dawn said extra funds would come from our fund balance. Motion to approve the use Read-a-thon funds for FY 23 by Jensen, Seconded by Perez. Roll Call Vote- Fanucci-aye, Stonestreet-aye, Perez-aye, Jensen-aye, Halvorson-aye, Savage-aye, Arnsdorf-aye. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Enrollment Numbers as of
 - i. Charter School (K-6) = 148
 - ii. Children's House (EC) = 12
 - iii. Pupil Unit Actual/Budget = 148/141
- d. Review of Bills
- e. Donations- Motion to approve by Savage, Seconded by Stonestreet. Roll Call Vote- Fanucci-aye, Stonestreet-aye, Perez-aye, Jensen-aye, Halvorson-aye, Savage-aye, Arnsdorf-aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- ### **X. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION REPORT AS RELATED TO CONTRACTED GOALS - 2021 – 2022 ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PLAN update from Mr. Bill. Parents and staff members shared pictures of their children cleaning up parks and areas in their neighborhoods. The 2 dates for our campus and park clean-up were canceled due to rain.**

XI. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REPORT AS RELATED TO CONTRACTED GOALS

Finishing up Fastbridge testing with E2 and kindergarten. Emily from OW came for a site visit last week. Emily said the atmosphere was positive. Annette said she talked with Emily about our goals. Goals for Fastbridge say that 50% of students make 50% growth. This is hard when a student is already exceeding the standard. Emily said she and OW would look at it and see if we can reword the goals. Annette will have the fastbridge data for the board in June. Erin explained why OW wants fall to fall data which creates a more fair picture of the growth of the students.

Fanucci asked about the summer program. About 80 students are signed up and classrooms have been staffed with lead teachers and support staff. Special education services will be provided as well.

XII. STRATEGIC PLANNING & GOAL SETTING

- a. Discovery Team update- Jensen said the Discovery Team had their first meeting last week. They discussed the focus of the Discovery Team and determined a survey for the school community would be the next step to get a better idea of what direction to take. The team is working on a survey to send out soon.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Contract Review of Special Education Director- SRMCS contracts for our special education director since the director needs a special education director license which no one on staff has. Paula Krippner provides this service through Designs for Learning. Board Motion to approve the Special Education Director contract by Savage, seconded by Halvorson. Roll Call Vote-Fanucci-aye, Stonestreet-nay, Perez-aye, Jensen-aye, Halvorson-aye, Savage-aye, Arnsdorf-aye. Motion carried.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2021-2022 School Board Election results- Aaron Stonestreet was elected as the parent board member with 31 votes. Julie Halvorson had 65 votes and Nicole Perez had 63 votes and were elected as the teacher board members. The results of the election will be posted on the school website. The school does need a community member. Annette shared that Rick Freese is willing to serve as the community member. Franco will reach out to Rick.
- b. Revise Budget- Annette asked the board if they are comfortable with the budget they approved for FY23 since there were a lot of questions from the board at past meetings. Board members said they are happy with the FY23 budget they approved at a prior meeting.
- c. Confirm Enrollment Projections- there have been records requests from other schools for mostly E2 students. Families need to let the school know that their student is not returning so we can start offering the spot to families on our waiting list.
- d. Student/Employee with Sexually Transmitted Infections & Diseases & Certain Other Communicable Diseases & Infectious Conditions Policy- no changes, reviewed
- e. Travel Expenditures Policy- no changes, reviewed

XV. CLOSED SESSION PER MN STATUTE 13.D: SCHOOL DIRECTOR EVALUATION

- a. Director's Development Plan review

Motion to close the meeting in accordance with MN. Stat.13D.05 Subd. 3. to share the board's evaluation of the performance and development plan of the school director with Annette Vemuri for the 2021-22 school year made by Jensen at 7:02 pm, Seconded by Stonestreet. Roll Call Vote- Fanucci-aye, Stonestreet-aye, Perez-aye, Jensen-aye, Halvorson-aye, Savage-aye, Arnsdorf-aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session Summary: In accordance with the SRMC School Board Policy on Director evaluation, the board conducted the annual summative evaluation of Annette Vemuri, School Director. The board-approved director's job description formed the basis of the evaluation. Director Vemuri and the board completed an evaluation rubric. Director Vemuri also answered in writing questions posed by the board. The board also looked at the results of a winter and spring survey taken by staff members. The board identified areas of strength and opportunities for continued professional growth which were included in a development plan for the director. Overall, the board is pleased with the job that Annette Vemuri is doing. Coming in as a director that is new to the role and the school is a difficult transition for all. She showed she is willing to learn and demonstrated growth throughout the year. The board set the goals for Director Vemuri of continuing to build connections with the staff and greater school community, improving communication with staff and increasing her knowledge of the Montessori Method. Director Vemuri will provide updates to the board on her classroom observations and communication with staff. The board will work to find Montessori Method professional development opportunities for the director and other staff new to the Montessori Method. We are pleased to offer Director Vemuri a letter of employment for the 2022-2023 school year and have her continue as our school leader.

- XVI. Motion made to open the meeting** made by Halvorson at 7:32 pm, 2nd by Savage. Roll Call Vote- Fanucci-aye, Stonestreet-aye, Perez-aye, Jensen-aye, Halvorson-aye, Savage-aye, Arnsdorf-aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- XVII. Letter of employment offer for SRMCS Director-**The board is pleased to offer Annette Vemuri a letter of employment for the 2022-2023 school year. Annette asked if the letter of employment can be for nine months like the teachers and the summer hours be a separate letter paid hourly or if her salary can be increased to better reflect the nature of her position and closer to the average of a charter school director in MN. Annette proposed a salary of \$85,000 opposed to the salary of \$79,000 in the initial letter of employment. Motion to offer Annette Vemuri a salary of \$85,000 made by Savage. While the motion was on the table, the board discussed the proposed negotiation for pay with Annette Vemuri and board members shared their thoughts.

Following the discussion the motion was seconded by Jensen and a vote taken. Roll Call Vote- Fanucci-aye, Stonestreet-nay, Savage-aye, Halvorson-aye, Arnsdorf-aye, Perez-aye, Jensen-aye. Motion carried.

XVIII. REVIEW OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- a. Date, Time & Location of next Board Meeting – Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 5:30 PM at Swan River Montessori.
- b. Upcoming Agenda Items-
 - New Business
 - Review odd and even year board agenda plan
 - Swearing in of Newly Elected Board Members
 - Building Board Appointments
 - Set Dates/Times for Upcoming Fiscal Year Board Meetings
 - Identify Officials with Authority
 - Approve Insurance Coverage- table to August
 - Review Lunch Prices
 - Use of Peace Officers & Crisis Teams to Remove Students w/IEPs from School Grounds
 - Reading Well By 3rd Grade Plan
 - Final Progress toward Contractual Goals-move to October
 - Annual Board Training- in August

Old Business/Tabled Items

- Amending OW Contract for increased projected enrollment
- April Financials

- XIX. MOTION TO ADJOURN by Halvorson at 8:19 pm, Seconded by Savage. Roll Call vote- Fanucci-aye, Stonestreet-aye, Perez-aye, Jensen-aye, Halvorson-aye, Savage-aye, Arnsdorf-aye. Motion carried unanimously.**