

SWAN RIVER MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL
School Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

The school board will hold this meeting in person at Swan River Montessori Charter School at 503 Maple St. building.

An option to join via Zoom will also be available.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89065292128?pwd=SzlqMFVkOEtuK3Avb2oySm5DSEh1dz09>

Meeting ID: 890 6529 2128

Passcode: xrj9wW

Meeting Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER by Franco Fanucci ___ at ___ 5:32 ___ PM

II. ROLL CALL

- a. Board Members Present: Franco Fanucci, Rick Freese, Julie Halvorson, Amy Savage, Jana Evink, Nicole Perez, Amy Jensen
- b. Board Members Absent: none
- c. Other Attendees: School Director Annette Vemuri, community members and staff both in person and online via Zoom, SRMCS Accountant Bridget Peterson via Zoom

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. MISSION AND VISION IN ACTION

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA- Motion to approve agenda adding audit made by Julie __,
Seconded by __Savage__. Board Vote- all aye

VI. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS- none

VII. Swearing in of newly appointed board members- Amy Jensen, Amy Savage, Rick Freese and Jana Evink

VIII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. 5.16.23- Motion to approve May meeting minutes made by _Rick_, Seconded by _Halvorson_. Board Vote- all aye

IX. COMMUNITY COMMENTS - Staff and parents both in person at the meeting and via Zoom voiced their concerns about the direction the school is going, the recent employment changes and other concerns about the school. The board took notes of these comments and will discuss them in depth at a later date.

X. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS- A summary of correspondences received will be provided to the school community following a Special Closed meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to review community comments and correspondence regarding the performance of the school director. The date for this Special Closed Meeting will be set as part of this board meeting.

Board discussed when to have a closed session to review the comments and correspondence. The closed meeting will be at 1 pm on June 22, 2023.

XI. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. May Financial Report – In a better place than most other schools Bridget works with. Strong cash on hand balance. Not feeling pressure from state holdback because of our 21% fund balance. Motion to approve May financials made by _Jensen_, Seconded by _Evink_. Board Vote- all aye

- a. FY23 Enrollment Numbers as of 6.16.23
 - i. Charter School (K-6) = 166
 - ii. Children’s House (EC) = 13
 - iii. Pupil Unit Actual/Budget = 166/163

- b. Projected FY24 Enrollment
 - CH1: 20 - 22 - (14-15K/6-7 prek)
 - CH2: 20 - 22 - (14-15K/6-7 prek)
 - E1-1: 25 - 26
 - E1-2: 25 - 26
 - E1-3: 25 - 26
 - E2-1: 25 - 30
 - E2-2: 25 - 30

Charter Enrollment 153 - 168/ 12 - 14 prek
Total Enrollment - 165 - 182

Our approved FY 24 budget is based on 163 students and 13 preK.

- c. Quote from Esterbrooks Certified Public Accountants to do our annual audit- Bridget reached out to multiple firms but only 2 were available. Esterbrooks quote is \$16,000. Contract is for this audit only and not locked in for an extended period of time. The cost is higher than our previous firm, but we have to have the audit done. Another quote from a different firm was \$17,000 base price. Motion to approve contract with Esterbrooks made by Halvorson, Second by Savage. Board vote- all aye
- d. Review of Bills- reviewed
- e. Donations-
 - i. Amazon Smile 6/8/23- \$100.99
 - ii. Read-a-thon 4/14/23- \$4776.96
 - iii. Read-a-thon 5/19/23- \$1194.24Motion to approve above donations totalling \$6072.19 made by _Savage_, Seconded by _Evink_. Board Vote- all aye

- XII. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION REPORT AS RELATED TO CONTRACTED GOALS** - Annette went to EE training from OW and the goals are not changing, but the way they are written and submitted is changing. Will update as more is known.
- XIII. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REPORT AS RELATED TO CONTRACTED GOALS** - Board will review the Reading Well By Third Grade Plan at the August meeting. Our Osprey Wilds goals go from fall to fall so will update in the fall following FastBridge testing in September.
- XIV. STRATEGIC PLANNING & GOAL SETTING**- 5 teachers getting their LETRS training on the science of reading, staff book study on the science of reading and literacy in the Montessori classroom planned for the upcoming year, parent question about moving away from Montessori- board approves changes to curriculum, not the director which is the reason for a teacher majority on the board
- XV. OLD BUSINESS**
- a. Crisis Management Policy- Motion to approve Crisis Management Policy with changes to the Weather Related School Closure Decision Making and other minor grammatical errors made by ___Jensen___, Second by___Perez___. Board Vote- all aye
- XVI. NEW BUSINESS**
- a. Set Date and Time for Special Closed meeting to review community comments and correspondence regarding the performance of the school director- Special Closed Meeting June 22, 2023 at 1 p.m.
 - b. Set Date and Time for a Special Open meeting to approve new policy “Malicious and Sadistic Conduct Policy” required by the state of MN- new policy needs to be approved by August 1st. Meeting set July 19 at 1 pm
 - c. Set Date and Time for board workshop with Osprey Wilds- August 22 at 1 pm.
 - d. Set Dates and Times for Upcoming Fiscal Year Board Meetings
 - e. Staffing FY24 Update- Letters of employment offered for FY24 due back by Monday June 26. All lead teachers will be Montessori certified. Have interest in the art position with interviews pending. Contacted Rogers School of Music who has contracted with schools before to provide music education and need to schedule.
 - f. Building Board Appointments- Kirsten Host, SRMCS Operations Manager, will fill the position of a staff member on the building board
 - g. Free Lunch & Breakfast program Update- grant submitted for \$9,000 for a new and larger fridge
 - h. Reading Well by 3rd Grade Plan Update- will update the plan in August. Fastbridge scores lower than expected but tests for fluency (speed) and is timed. Testing done by the teachers (reading sight words and untimed) shows the students are reading sight words at 90% accuracy. Balance between speed and accuracy.
 - i. Annual Board Training- OW is still in the planning stages
 - j. List of Professional Development for Staff- Annette attended a leader’s retreat earlier this month for charter school leaders. Made some good connections with other leaders. Literacy in the Montessori Environment book study for lead teachers in the fall.
 - k. Final Progress toward Contracted Goals- OW goals look at the data fall to fall for academic goals. Will update in the fall once beginning of the year assessments are completed.

1. 2023-2024 School Calendar- Monticello made changes to their calendar which affects our bussing for the first week of school. They now have Sept 7 as the first day of school for preK through 5th. SRMCS will also start school for preK-6th grade on Sept. 7. Phase-in Days for new Children's House students will remain the same.

XVII. REVIEW OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- a. Date, Time & Location of next Board Meeting –
Special Closed Sessions on June 22 and June 28 at 1 pm for the purpose of reviewing the performance of the school director.
Regular open meeting on July 19 at 1 pm for the purpose of reviewing and approving policies.
Regular Board Meeting August 15 at 5:30 PM.
- b. Upcoming Agenda Items for August Meeting-

New Business

Annual Designations: Depository, Electronic Funds Transfer, and Communication
Pledge of Allegiance Policy
eLearning Policy & Plan
Wellness Policy- July Meeting
Meal Charge Policy
OW Contract/Contracted Goals Review
Employee and/or Parent Handbook Review- July meeting
Establish Board Committees
Annual Board Training Update
List of Professional Development for Staff
Board Resolution for IOWA - Sign
Wellness Committee Mtg.- July meeting
World's Best Workforce Plan & Committee Mtg.

Old Business/Tabled Items

XVIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN by _Savage_ at _8:33_ PM, Seconded by _Perez_. Board Vote-