

SWAN RIVER MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.

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

Meeting Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER by at 7:33am by Jana Evink

II. ROLL CALL

- a. Board Members Present: Amy Jensen, Julie Halvorson, Nicole Perez, Amy Savage, Rick Freese, Jana Evink
- b. Board Members Absent: Franco Fanucci
- c. Other Attendees: Annette Vemuri , School Director; Bridgette Peterson, EdFin Accountant
- d. Recording Minutes : Kirsten Host

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.

Reviewed by JE

IV. MISSION AND VISION IN ACTION-

- students are starting to settle in, its always a joy to look around at see everyone working - Amy Jensen
- the building looks better than it has in years, the grounds, the classrooms, making the beautiful environment is better than the past - Annette Vemuri
- the awning for the pickup and dropoff, the light being fixed, the ramp being repaired - a lot of improvements making the school look more professional - Rick Freese

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA- Motion to approve agenda made by **Jensen**, Seconded by **Halvorson** Board Vote- All aye, motion carries

VI. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS- none

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. 8.15.23- Motion to approve meeting minutes made by **Jensen**, Seconded by **Freese**. Board Vote- All aye, motion carries

VIII. COMMUNITY COMMENTS - discussing at October meeting

IX. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS- none

X. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. August Financial Report – Motion to approve August financials made by **Freese** , Seconded by **Perez**.
Board Vote- All aye, motion carries

-Cash is increasing, state is paying back payments,
-Audit starts tomorrow for FY23 (Esther Brooks)
-Tentatively having reports from the audit in November.
-Title I funds received this year / Federal Funds
-Food Service “free meals” vs. what are they really costing us

- a. FY24 Enrollment Numbers as of 9.15.23
i. Charter School (K-6) = 165
ii. Children’s House (EC) = 15
iii. Pupil Unit Actual/Budget = 165/163

- b. Review of Bills-**Nothing needed**
c. Donations- **Next Month**

XI. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION REPORT AS RELATED TO CONTRACTED GOALS

Committee meeting tomorrow - 9/20

Kimberly Dierks plans to have goals by 10/1, dependant on committee meeting

XII. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REPORT AS RELATED TO CONTRACTED GOALS -

Fastbridge testing is done , currently going through data

RTI is starting

We do not have reading core this year - RTI has shown much more value to students

Melissa has MathCore groups - E2 groups starting this week

MN Report card shows all of our MCA Data 3rd-6th grade

SRMCS is above state average.

Big improvement from 3rd-4th grade, shows RTI is helping improve reading skills

Math is slightly below the MN state average

After Covid our numbers started to trend down

Strong focus on math this year as math core didn't start until Jan-Feb last year.

XIII. STRATEGIC PLANNING & GOAL SETTING-

None

XIV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Progress on Director Goals - 1 observation left to do, last class this Thursday then Certificate will be completed!
- b. Update on MCC contract - MCC cannot charge us memberships - it's against charter law. We cannot give our families benefits, and by purchasing memberships its considered a ‘benefit’
-proposed doing a 1 year agreement, with added insurance (\$168/year)
-55k for the year - one year price, not a ‘membership’ for each student/family
-waiting on MCC board meeting to vote to agree on 1 year membership

-30k we get reimbursed for LeaseAid

- c. Meal Charge Policy
tabled
- d. Pledge of Allegiance Policy
tabled

XV. NEW BUSINESS

TBD - 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the Month board meeting days.

- a. Establish Board Committees and board roles
 - i. Proposed Committees-
 - 1. Governance - Jensen , Vemuri
 - a. Wednesday Meetings 8-840am
 - b. if school is not held, meeting is not held.
 - 2. Finance - Evink , Vemuri, Savage
 - a. spring meeting / waiting on finance **January**
 - 3. Director Evaluation - Evink, Perez, Halvorson
 - 4. MCC Contract and School Facilities -Freese, Halvorson, Vemuri, Perez
- b. FY25 School hours change
 - i. Monticello Elementary starts at 7:50am
 - ii. proposed school hours for SRMCS - motion to approve the start and dismissal times listed below made by __Jensen__, Seconded by __Perez__. Board vote- All aye, motion carries
 - 1. students come at 8:10 / school starts at 8:15
 - 2. school day ends 2:35 / Bus pickup at 2:40
- c. Approve Insurance Coverage
 - i. no change until November - quotes are requested from insurance company
 - ii. also getting quotes from an outside insurance broker
- d. Wellness Policy- motion to approve by **Halvorson**, Seconded by **Jensen**. Board vote- All aye, motion carries
 - i. updating Audit plan
 - ii. changed school snack / just CH offering snack
 - iii. included that we provide lunch and breakfast
- e. **Equal Educational Opportunity Policy**
- f. **Purchasing Policy**
- g. **Compensation for Substitutes Policy**
- h. **Internet Acceptable Use & Safety Policy**
- i. **Application & Enrollment Procedures Policy**
- j. **Sharing Intellectual Property Policy**

items e-j tabled

XVI. REVIEW OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- a. Date, Time & Location of next Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 7:30 AM
- b. Upcoming Agenda Items-
 - New Business
 - Whistleblowers Policy

Financial & Cash Management Policy
Religious Expressions Policy
Credit Card Policy
Progress on Director Goals
Approve and Submit Annual Report to MDE, Authorizer
List of Professional Development for Staff (if applicable)
Attendance to OW Leaders Retreat (if applicable)

Old Business/Tabled Items

Meal Charge Policy
Pledge of Allegiance Policy
Equal Educational Opportunity Policy
Purchasing Policy
Compensation for Substitutes Policy
Internet Acceptable Use & Safety Policy
Application & Enrollment Procedures Policy
Sharing Intellectual Property Policy

XVII. MOTION TO ADJOURN by Perez at 8:39 AM, Seconded by Halvorson . Board Vote- all aye - motion carried