

SAPMS Board Meeting

February 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm via Google Meet.

MISSION

The Mission of St. Augustine Public Montessori School is to provide students with a learning culture grounded in Montessori philosophy and practice that inspires a love of learning and respect for self, others and the environment.

AGENDA

1) Roll call

Board Members:

Jason Ferrante, President
Burt Froehlich, Treasurer
Andres Kerllenevich, Secretary
Tristan Alfant, Trustee
Kim MacEwan, Trustee

Others Present:

Diane Dodds
Rebekah Andreu
Amanda Shields
Beate Schroeder
Cora Good
Erika Forest-Martin
Faith Corley
Jaclyn Briand
Janet Myer
Monique Lyman
Rachel Stirling

2) Review of Public Notice

Notice was posted on the school calendar, the school website, and via email at 2:58 pm on February 20, 2024.

3) Approval of Minutes

MOTION:

Made by: Andres Kerllenevich

Seconded by: Jason Ferrante

Motion: To approve the minutes for the January 17, 2024 board meeting which were emailed to the board by Andres Kerllenevich.

Vote: All in favor.

Disposition: Approved.

4) Public comment on Agenda Items - NONE.

5) President's Items:

5a) Secretary: Update on legal claim re: past incident

DISCUSSION: Andres updated board on status of legal claim.

5b) Community issue: Request to discuss concerns "rebranding" of school as STA Montessori

DISCUSSION: A parent raised a concern about the calling the school "STA Montessori", it leaves out the word "public" and misrepresents a portion of the school's mission as well as creating the impression that the school is going, or has gone, private. Diane explained that when the website crashed, and logins had to be changed, it seemed like STA Montessori is easier to understand than SAPMS which was previously used. Diane thinks that the word Montessori better represents to the public what we do than SAPMS. Diane also pointed out that the school is not actually a "public" school, but rather a "charter" school. Rebekah said she received a lot of positive feedback and also explained that the school is not fully public since half of the funding comes from tuition. Jason said that we should consider how the school presents itself going forward in the long term. Jason suggested an explanatory email from Diane or Rebekah. The issue will be revisited at the charter renewal next year.

5c) Community Meeting recap

DISCUSSION: Jason thanked everyone who came to the Community Meeting this month. The next community meeting will be more administrative, parents only.

6) Director's Report:

6a) Language for Employee Agreements for 2024-2025 (Lead, Assistant, Assistant Director)

6b) AMS Compensation Survey Results for EC Teachers, LE Teachers, UE Teachers, and Head of Schools

6c) Budget Salary for 24/25

DISCUSSION: Diane present calendar items for March. Enrollment is unchanged. There is a lot of interest for the Fall. There are many tours being given. Lease renewal is coming up in a couple of months. Diane is impressed with the grant writing people. There will be a meeting with the realtor for new locations. There was a raccoon family living at 7 Williams that have been relocated to a 40 acre farm. Diane asked status of building inspection. Diane sent form contract for the teachers. Diane also presented salary surveys by teacher position. Diane will need the board to approve payroll numbers for next year at the March meeting.

7) Committee Reports

-- Financial Committee: Budget update, Annual Fund

DISCUSSION: Burt presented his report. Cash balance has decreased by \$3,500 from December to January. Rising tide fund has raised \$40,000 of the \$250,000 goal. Burt said we should be at \$100,000 - \$150,000. The school ran a \$3,668 surplus in January. Jason thanked Rebekah for sending out the Rising Tide emails.

-- Fundraising Committee: Grant writer, sponsorships/donations

DISCUSSION: Kim presented her report. Diane has approved some emails and they are set up to make pledges. The Oyster Roast is on March 23. Kim discussed other fundraising activities. Kim offered to help with the Spring Art and Music festival. Diane said it would be helpful to have QR codes as well as tents and shades.

-- Facility: Maintenance and Beautification Committee: Inspection of 7 Williams

DISCUSSION: Jason presented his report. The committee obtained quotes to do a structural inspection of 7 William Street of \$1,300 but Billy Knight (parent/home inspector) can do it for less. Diane will arrange with Billy for the inspection. Also, the rotting structure under the storage shed has been removed. Next will be an arborist to trim trees.

-- Facility: New Facility Search Committee: Update from Grow Schools, Realtor meeting

DISCUSSION: A meeting will be held with a realtor from Charter School Capital. Andres offered to help with lease negotiations. Andres also asked about a possible satellite location for next year.

-- Communication/Community Outreach Committee

DISCUSSION: There is no one on the committee at this point. One parent expressed interest and Jason will send out another email seeking members. Jason reiterated that the school is still looking for outside board members.

8) Other Board Business NONE.

9) Public comment on non-agenda items NONE.

10) Adjournment

MOTION:

Made by: Jason Ferrante

Seconded by: Andres Kerllenevich

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Vote: All in favor.

Disposition: Approved.

Jason Ferrante adjourned the meeting at 7:14 pm.

Minutes by: Andres Kerllenevich

Date approved: March 20, 2024