

**Laramie Montessori Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**August 26, 2021**  
**6:30 PM**

I. Opening (6:30)

The Mission of Laramie Montessori School is to support the development of the whole child through an authentic Montessori environment that honors the child's intrinsic motivation to learn and supports each individual's unique intellectual, physical, social and emotional development.

A. 15 second Montessori Moments

Jeff V. shared that this morning there were families taking photos outside, some families wanted to include him, and it was a good experience.

Miss Heidi shared that her granddaughter is attending preschool at Montessori and previously it was hard to get her to pick up. The other night she knocked something over and cleaned it up. She said Ms Makena taught her to sweep.

B. Roll Call - all board members are present

C. Approval of Agenda

July's Minutes say June and it needs to be changed to July.

Special Board Meeting minutes from July were unavailable and need to be moved to next month's meeting for approval.

Megan moved to approve the amended agenda, Tiffany seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

II. Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes, Board Meeting, July 27, 2021

III. Audience Communication

A. Teacher Representative

Heidi let us know that the staff as a whole had a good day, are excited to be moving forward, and glad to be in person.

B. Open communication

Comments were provided by attendees regarding the current mask policy.

IV. Monthly Financial Report

A. Review and Board Action to approve July 2021 Financial Report

Tiffany moved to approve, Emily seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion passed.

## V. Reports

### A. Director's Report

Everyone was excited about the first day of school and everything went well. There was a little confusion with preschool, as it is a new program, but office staff and parents did great. We had a training on peace curriculum for disputes, etc. and suicide prevention training for staff for kids in crisis. There was a lot of positive feedback from teachers— they enjoyed meeting with parents and professional development. Enrollment last year at this time was 63--- this year it is 92. Preschool has a couple of slots open. The Board for Friends of Montessori has offered a \$2,000 scholarship to the preschool. Montessori has also received donations from Ace hardware in the amount of \$1,500 for student supplies. Jeff went to Montessori Education Center of the Rockies (MECR) in Denver in early August for Montessori training.

### B. Ad hoc Preschool Transition Committee Report

Preschool started and Makena said the day went great, and that the intro to preschool this summer helped out a lot. Jeff spoke to the Albany County School District #1 Board about adding an addendum to charter to add Preschool, this would allow preschool students to become part of the district which would provide more avenues, such as being able to mix the kindergarten and preschool classes. Preschool students currently have to be kept separate, as preschool students are not currently district students. We have one employee whose salary is based only on preschool monies and an addendum would allow her to receive district benefits, etc. The addendum to the charter is on the agenda for the Albany County School District #1 Board meeting in September.

DFS requires more padding for preschool students in the areas that currently have wood chips. Preschool students are currently being limited to the concrete top while Jeff and Norman work on adding more padding to woodchip areas.

The Preschool Committee will need to meet soon to discuss after school care, etc. An authentic Montessori environment, including a preschool, is a nice part of the Montessori strategic plan.

The preschool budget looks good and we couldn't have hoped for a better start to preschool.

### C. Committee Reports: Finance Committee (Overview of LMCS Finances, budgets)

We will have a more detailed overview of finances and training at a later board meeting. Field trip funds are currently low, but there is a downpayment still on the books for Teton Science School.

## VI. Covid-related Health Procedures

The Albany County School District School Board approved a 1 week mask policy and will get together on the 1st for review. We are a charter school, but we are a part of ACSD #1., and per our charter we need to abide by ACSD #1 policies. Based on legal counsel, if we were to depart from ACSD #1 policy, we would need to request a variance, submit the request to ACSD #1, and get approval. Language in our charter says we must abide by what ACSD #1 is implementing.

LMCS can hold a work session, special session, or advocate for an ad hoc committee.

## VII. New Business

### A. Board Goals for 2021-2022

We're approximately 75% of the way to becoming a full Title I school. We would like to get our school the Montessori certification from American Montessori Society, develop a strategic plan and a school improvement plan, and capture the goals of the staff.

#### B. Strategic Planning – Establishment of Ad hoc Committee

Board members for the Policy and Planning Committee will be on an ad hoc committee for creating our strategic plan.

Tiffany moved to create the committee, Amy seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

A board member will write a charter and bring it to the board meeting next month. The charter will include, what the committee will do, general makeup, and the board will vote on approval.

Tiffany will chair the committee.

#### C. Appointment of Standing Committee Chairs

Accountability Committee- Tiffany Cook - Megan nominated Tiffany, Emily seconded the nomination, and all were in favor.

Finance Committee - Megan, as the committee is chaired by the treasurer.

Policy & Planning - Amy Roberts- Tiffany nominated Amy, Emily second the nomination, and all were in favor.

Nominating committee - does not have members of the board- Kathy Kirkaldie will chair.

Resource Development - Emily Vercoe- Tiffany nominated Emily, Megan seconded the nomination, and all were in favor.

Facilities - Ashlee Kupilik- Megan nominated Ashlee, Tiffany seconded the nomination, and all were in favor.

We need to let parents know we are looking for committee volunteers.

#### VIII. Audience Communication II

There was audience communication regarding mask policy.

#### IX. Executive Session

Emily moved to enter executive session citing WY Statute citing 16-4-405, Tiffany seconded the motion, all were in favor and the Board moved into executive session.

##### A. Personnel (WY Stat 16-4-405)

Executive session was a meeting to discuss personnel.

Tiffany moved to leave executive session, Megan seconded the motion, all were in favor and the Board moved out of executive session.

#### X. Adjourn

Ashlee moved to adjourn, Emily seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the meeting adjourned.