



WilCo Montessori Partners, Inc Board Meeting
Minutes Thursday July 23, 2020 3:00pm Audio
Call in Number

1-346-248-7799 Meeting

ID: 827 2373 2555

Passcode: 329714

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82723732555?pwd=TG1rUXp1U3d1SkpsaWtUTkJKaWM5Zz09>

Mission: To provide an exceptional Montessori Education to all children and their families, encouraging a lifelong love of learning and active participation in their communities. Vision: To develop conscientious citizens who approach their world with confidence, creativity and collaboration.

1. In Attendance, Establishment of Quorum, Call to order

In attendance: Carl Illig, Kathy Trullender, Mary Evelyn Bowling, and Kimber Fuccello. The following staff was in attendance: Dr. Bruce Tabor, Marcy Steward, Christi Cowden, Cheniese Armstrong and Michele Morales.

Carl called the meeting to order at 3pm. Four of the five board members were present so quorum was established.

2. Board President Statement - Carl Illig

Carl gave a statement of regarding the board agenda, posting and information on board packet.

3. Public Comments

Speakers will be allocated 2 minutes for public comments.

Several people have signed up to comment. However, after those who have signed up, the floor will be open to the public so if they can wish to comment they can.

Laura Evans: expressed concern about 2 working parents and proposed a solution.

Ashley Robinson: not present. Dr. Bruce mentioned that she was travelling and had sent a letter to share with the board. Carl requested it be shared after the meeting.

Rebecca Johnson: Advocate against homeschooling and is anti-masks. Cited some research about the contagion.

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Melvin Blackburn: He wants to advocate for the school to open as safely as possible. He is concerned about the safety of the children. We can do Montessori education via distance learning. It's more difficult, but it's possible.

Carl opened the floor to others of the public.

Jenny Dombroski: Expressed concerns pertain to Sped only being offered online. Person to person far outweighs the tele health option.

Heather Pencil: Advocate as parent and staff member postpone opening of school until it is safe. Keep school closed as long as possible until it is safe to open.

There were no further comments.

4. Delivery of Instruction Presentation - Abbie Park

Ms. Park presented the information from the Task Force of Delivery of Instruction. She commented about the work her and the members of the task force have done over the summer. She discussed the staff survey sent out at the end of June and the results. She also discussed what the fall instruction could look like. Planning for a dual model. She also talked about the commitment of the staff and Goodwater Montessori. What the dual model instruction On-campus in-person instruction and remote instruction would look like was discussed. She discussed what the daily remote instruction would look like.

Some questions from Board members were discussed.

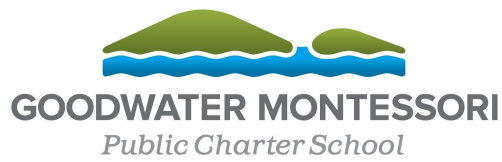
5. Operation Contingency for COVID-19 Presentation - Alma Lahmon

Ms. Alma introduced herself and gave a brief overview of what the job of the Operation Contingency for COVID-19 entails. She discussed the building access protocols, and processes for the dismissal/arrival procedures. General procedures around mask wearing, social distancing, etc.

She also talked about the internal building protocols. She discussed the Health/wellness and COVID19 protocols, how to handle COVID-19 related issues in the school. She talked about the current status of the task force.

Dr. Bruce shared some more information about the work done by the task forces. He also discussed phone conference calls that he's had with WCCHD and TEA.

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6. Discussion and Action Items

A. TEA Guidance on Opening Schools

Carl talked about the TEA guidance that was given to schools for opening schools. This is more for a reference for the board, family and anyone who needed this information.

B. Student/Family Survey Results

Carl mentioned that we will update the board packet on the website with this information.

Christi discussed the Student/Family Survey Results. Christi discussed how attendance would be taken whether a student is on campus or remote learning. She described the difference between the attendance and the required minutes of instruction.

Questions by board members were discussed. Kathy would like us to find out the caregiver situation of families. To find out if parents are sending to school because they don't have a choice or if they think remote instruction isn't working for them or their student isn't learning. Discussed how to help families who have to work and don't have a choice but to send their kids to school.

C. School Calendar

- a. The Goodwater Leadership Team is proposing delaying the start date of the school year from August 13, 2020 to August 20, 2020. The short delay will provide more time to prepare for the start of instruction.

Christi discussed the changes requested to the school calendar as presented in March. We are wanting to move the first day from August 13th to August 20th. She discussed the reason behind it. She also mentioned that we need to add 10 minutes to the school day rather than adding more days to the school calendar. School would start at 7:50am and end at 3:20pm. This always allows us to do 3 more days of Professional Development which will help with remote learning. Staggered arrival times were also discussed. If we would need to go this route we would have to end the day at a later time.

Carl discussed when other schools will open based on an article from KXAN. He also discussed an article from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Bruce praised the support and work from the administration team and from

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staff who have stepped up wanting to help. He also praised the work the board has done.

Dr. Bruce recommends that we delay the start of school by one week.

Questions by board members were discussed.

Carl moved to approve the calendar as presented. Kimber seconded and all were in favor. The motion passed 4/0.

D. In-Person/Remote Learning

a. Possible Delay of In-Person Instruction at the School

The Goodwater Leadership Team is proposing beginning the year with four weeks of remote instruction for all students as allowed by TEA. The purpose behind this is to give an opportunity for the infection rate to decrease in Williamson County. We would start in-person on September 17th. There is a possibility of adding on 4 more weeks of remote learning if needed.

Carl discussed that the main thing we need to focus on at this point is safety. The school needs to continue to look at safety procedures and see how we can keep students in classrooms safe.

Dr. Bruce talked about the staff survey and what they were concerned about. Most staff was concerned about starting school in-person. When testing comes down to where it needs to be than we won't be so concerned about how to open in person safely.

Carl mentioned that as a Charter school we don't have the luxury of straying too far away from what GISD is doing. More discussion surrounded this topic.

Carl talked about that with the guidance we have right now, at some point we will have to open the school up and it will not be a choice we have. More discussion surrounding this topic. What is our metric for when we know that it's safe to open up? Dr. Bruce mentioned that it depended on the test positive results. These need to be below 10% and it needs to stay there 7 days after that and then that is when we will say we open school up according to the Williamson County Health Department. TEA does not offer much guidance on this topic. Carl talked about how the Health Department has to give an order rather than just guidance. They have to give us an order to shutdown otherwise we need to follow the guidance from TEA. More was discussed about this topic.

We have to be careful to say we are not closed. We are not closed, we are doing remote education. The school and the task force needs to continue to prepare because TEA will tell us we have to open and we have to be ready.

Kathy moved that we begin the year with four weeks of remote instruction for all students as allowed by TEA. Kimber seconded and all were in favor. Motion passed 4/0.

b. Remote Learning Platforms

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This topic was covered in Item 4: Delivery of Instruction Force Task presentation Item 4.

E. Attendance Requirements

This topic was covered in Item 6 - b

F. Board COVID Response Resolution

Discussion related to how we count attendance so when we are audited we can prove how we did this. Make sure we document everything. And define how we are going to document to show how a student attended and engaged. Define policies and procedures on how this will look like so we know how the asynchronous learning shows attendance. And have a written plan.

Procurement waiver still stands; we would challenge Dr. Bruce and the admin that it truly needs to be the things that we really needed to find. For example: we can't find Chromebooks, and we can only find one vendor who has them and we can waive the purchase procedures. It needs to be limited to things that truly are a result of this environment.

Marcy discussed how we have been very strict about the procurement process up to this point.

Carl moved that we approve the resolution of emergency Covid response as written and shown on the screen. Kathy seconded and all were in favor. Motion passed 4/0.

G. Staffing Concerns

Dr Bruce discussed that there has been staff turnover and we are working diligently at interviewing and getting staff in position.

H. Cleaning Procedures

Covid Task force will be working on these procedures. Carl talked about how we will be getting the approved disinfectant from TEA.

I. Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures

Covid Task force will be working on these procedures.

J. Nap Room

Covid Task force will be working on these procedures.

K. After School Program

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Covid Task force will be working on these procedures.

L. Wearing of Masks

The Goodwater Leadership team is proposing that all students, staff and visitors be required to wear masks at all times while inside the building.

CDC recommends that everyone 2 years and older wear a cloth face covering that covers their nose and mouth in public settings when around people not living in your household, particularly where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies or children younger than 2 because of the danger of suffocation. Children younger than 2 years of age are listed as an exception as well as anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

Dr. Bruce discussed the different masks we are planning to use and figure out how to enforce and deal with this on a case by case basis. We are looking at the different options. TEA has purchased PPE equipment for the school. We are determining what else we will need to purchase.

M. Technology

- a. Chromebooks
- b. Internet Access

Marcy discussed technology and how we already have enough computers and more are on their way. We have additional tablets who are on their way. We have hotspots secured for those families as well. Based on the survey we will be able to cover 100% of the family needs.

N. Special Education

Cheniese presented her SpEd team and the new incoming team members. She discussed the parent survey. She also discussed how some parents need to be able to have a hybrid model for SpEd meaning that they are fully remote, but would like to have their SpEd services be in person. She and her team highly recommend a hybrid model for SpEd, but would also like to keep everyone safe.

Dr. Bruce discussed how proud he is of the work Cheniese and her team accomplished in the Spring.

7. Closed session per Texas Government Code section §551.074 to discuss Personnel matters.

Carl moved to enter the closed session at 5:05pm. Kimber seconded all were in favor. The motion passed 4/0.

8. Announcements or Resolutions from Closed Session

There were no announcements or resolutions from the closed session.

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9. Announce Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next board meeting will be Tuesday, July 28th at 5:30pm. Carl mentioned that we will have a Budget Workshop sometime in August, but that the date still needs to be determined.

10. Adjourn:

Mary Evelyn moved to adjourn at 5:57pm. Kimber seconded and all were in favor. Motion passed 4/0.