



Williamson County Montessori Partners
Board Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2017

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. Attendance, Establishment of Quorum, Call to order: (5 minutes)
Call to order at 6:36 p.m.
Board members in attendance: Kate McSpadden, Mary Evelyn Bowling, Kevin Kaplan, Mickell Powers, Norma Perales, Charlene Burgess, Carl Illig.
Goodwater Staff in attendance were: Nancy Gribble-tay, Marcy Steward.
2. Public Comments: (10 minutes)
Speakers may have up to 3 minutes each and shall sign in 5 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.
None.
3. Review and approve minutes of previous meeting (s): (5 minutes)
Norma moved to accept minutes as written. Mickell seconded, all approved.
4. Reports: (30 minutes)
 - A. Review Facilities report: Kate McSpadden
Kate added to the facilities report that we really need a cross walk. We are hoping to get some help with this process. Mickell will do some research.
 - B. Review Treasurer's report: Kevin Kaplan
Kevin indicated that we will kick off a fundraising campaign. There was some group discussion regarding ideas and processes.
 - C. Review Business Manager's report: Marcy Steward
No additional information.
 - D. Review Head of School report: Nancy Gribble-Tay
We had a great opening last week. There are a few tentative families. We have more Special Ed students than originally anticipated. There are currently 48 with an IEP, 17 with a 504 and 10 ESL students. Nancy would like to hire a few para professionals.
Nancy opened a discussion regarding early release for 3 and 4 year olds.
 - E. Review Student & Community Services report:
No report.
5. Discussion and Action Items: (30 minutes)
 - A. Discussion and Resolution to remain in compliance with federal law regarding the Public Charter School Program Grant by providing free, full-time Perks to Goodwater families.
TEA contacted us after a meeting with the Department of Education where they learned that under federal guidelines, because we have a blended tuition program for Pre-K, we don't qualify for the CSP grant that we were previously awarded.

The WilCo Montessori Partners Board of Directors adheres to Open Meetings statutes as dictated by Texas Government Code Title S, Subtitle A, Chapter 551.

Three suggestions were provided by TEA:

- Return \$ 800,000 grant.
- Ask paying children to withdraw.
- Allow all 3 and 4 year olds to come free of tuition

There are 35 Pre-K students paying \$5600 per year in tuition. This translates to approximately \$200,000. We aren't able to return tuition and ask for donation of similar value.

Carl moved that we remain in compliance with the federal law regarding public charter school grant, (CSP) by allowing all 3 and 4 year old students to become tuition free.

Norma seconded. All approved.

B. Resolution to submit a waiver application to the Commissioner of Education requesting an exemption from 19 TAC §100.1033(b) (9) (A), Expansion Amendment Standards which states, the commissioner may approve an expansion amendment only if:

- (i) the expansion will be effective no earlier than the start of the fourth full school year at the affected charter school;
- (ii) the amendment request is received no earlier than the first day of February and no later than the first day of April preceding the school year in which the expansion will be effective;
- (iii) the most recent district rating for the charter school is "academically acceptable" and the most recent campus rating for at least 90% of the campuses operated under the charter school is "academically acceptable";
- (iv) the most recent district financial accountability rating for the charter school in the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) for Charter Schools is "satisfactory"; and
- (v) the charter school has an accreditation status of Accredited.

Mickell moved to approve the waiver to the Commissioner of Education. Kevin seconded. All approved.

C. Request by Board Members for items to be placed on next month's Agenda.

October meeting to be move to 10/10.

6. Closed Session

Kate moved that we go into closed session at 8:19. Mickell seconded.

Carl moved that we exit closed session at 8:39. Mickell seconded. All approved.

7. Adjourn:

Mickell moved that we adjourn at 8:40. Mary Evelyn seconded. All approved.