

HIGH DESERT MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 29, 2018 @ 5:00 P.M.

Star Peak Room

2025 Silverada Blvd, Reno, NV

MINUTES of MEETING

**BOARD BINDER AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

**Members Present** Amanda Baldwin  
Scott Hernandez  
Terry Fowler  
Doug Whitener  
Max Haynes (after call to order)

**Excused Absence** Kay Ko

**Also Present** Principal Rhonda Turnipseed  
Assistant Principal Tamra Hopkins

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

**Chairperson Terry Fowler called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m. with a quorum of four board members. Max Haynes Joined the meeting.**

**2. Public Comment**

**NONE**

**3. Chairman's Report**

Last school year, the Board of Directors hired a new principal, and HDMS made it through the budget crunch and is still a float. Chairperson Terry Fowler is pleased with the changes he has seen with the administration team and with the support the teachers are receiving. He went on to say that we have a great faculty and staff, which is a strength of the school. He also reported that Rosewood Rehabilitation Center owns the vacant lot adjacent to the Silverada campus and

wants to partner with HDMS in the future to create a garden. Terry said that there are some challenges, such as the budget, star rating and expansion.

**4. Adopt the Agenda**

Chairperson Terry Fowler asked to move item # 7 to 5.

**Amanda Baldwin moved to move item # 7 new teacher introduction to #5. Doug Whitener seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. New Teacher Introduction**

New Special Education Teacher Autumn Reeder introduced herself to the board. Sherrie Introduced Adista Elmer our newest member of the admin team who is taking Cheryl's place as the bookkeeper. Cheryl will remain on staff for the fiscal year working with Adista.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

Correction to the board retreat date- Board retreat will be held on 10/26/18 from 1-5:30 p.m.

**Scott Hernandez moved to accept the minutes as presented with a few grammar changes. Amanda Baldwin seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**7. New Board Appointment**

**Doug Whitener moved to appoint Linda Aaquist to our board effective immediately. Scott Hernandez seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**8. Treasurer Report**

**Tabled**

**9. Revised Financial Policies**

**Tabled**

Max asked the board to read through the procurement portions of the document to make sure there are no highly restrictive provisions. Scott Hernandez will look further into the statement made under Federal Grant Procurements on page 9. Amanda Baldwin will ask her employer to do so, as well.

## 10. Approval of June and July Cash Disbursements

**Max Haynes moved to approve June and July cash disbursements as presented. Amanda Baldwin seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

## 11. Expansion Update

**Max Haynes gave an update to the board.**

By selling the vacant lot and the Orovada building, HDMS could clear its debts secured by its real property. Currently the school owes a total of \$2,240,000 at a 6 percent rate. The current debt at Silverada is \$824,000 at 1.1 percent, which will be paid in full by 2020. The school has met with three different real estate companies, and all three were against selling the three-story building for various reasons. In order to start a capital campaign, HDMS needs to clear its debt and show a plan to expand over the next five to ten years. There are a few factors that should be considered in making a decision. First, the lot owned by Rosewood Rehabilitation center is willing to partner with the school to create a garden. Second, the Orovada playground is moveable if necessary. Third, the entire school would be located a one campus, which creates school unity and a single point of entry. Fourth, HDMS cannot continue to hold so much real estate. The board needs to allocate some money to draft a floor plan; action will be taken at the next board meeting to do so.

## 12. Governance Report

Governance Committee met prior to the meeting. One of the key roles of the Governance Committee is to recruit additional board members. The Committee developed a matrix to assist in reviewing potential candidates. Currently, there are three interested candidates. The current protocol is to engage an interested candidate is for a member of the Board to recommend a candidate or for a candidate to express interest herself. The members of the Governance Committee will meet with the candidate to discuss the candidates background and qualifications, as well as the responsibilities associated with serving on the HDMS Board of Directors. After the meeting, the candidate will tour the school and observe the classrooms. Then the candidate will attend a Board meeting. Doug stated Whitener that there will be one to two candidates at a Board meeting in the near future.

## 13. Principal & Vice Principal Update

**Please see updates in your board packets.**

Principal Rhonda spoke about positive communication and teamwork, robust parent involvement, coaching style and professional learning. Assistant Principal Tamra presented the board with the Nevada School Performance Framework/test scores, which is how the State establishes a school's star rating.

## 14. Public Comment

**15. Adjournment and Future Agenda Items**

Future Items

- Financial Policies
- Review of budget
- Financials
- New Teacher Introduction
- Approval of Minutes from August
- Chair, governance and financial committee reports
- Principal/Assistant Principal updates
- Action Item to approve some funds towards project

**Scott Hernandez moved to adjourn the meeting. Amanda Baldwin seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.**