

Madrone Trail Public Charter School

Jackson County, Oregon

Special meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 5:30 pm

Madrone Trail Public Charter School – 3070 Ross Lane, Medford, OR 97502

I. Call to order/ Roll call

Brenda called to order the special meeting of the Madrone Trail Public Charter School Board at 5:30pm at Madrone Trail Public Charter School 3070 Ross Ln. Central Point, OR 97502

Sarah conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Brenda Stein, Sarah Trujillo, Monica Rathjen, Michelle Gury (by phone)

Jane Higgins, Leann Tourzan (Faculty)

Karen Bailey (Administrator)

II. Opening verse

III. Public Comment –

IV. Approval of Minutes and Agenda Adjustments

a.) Approval of January 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion Approved

Monica Rathjen I make a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for January 2018.

Michelle Gury I second the motion.

Aye – 4 (Stein, Rathjen, Gury, Trujillo)

No – 0

b.) Agenda adjustments- Approval of January 2018 expenditures tabled

V. Approval of Consent Agenda

a.) Approval of Expenditures for December 2017

Motion Approved

Brenda Stein I make a motion to approve the Expenditures for December 2017

Sarah Trujillo I second the motion.

Aye – 4 (Stein, Rathjen, Gury, Trujillo)

No – 0

VI. Informational Items:

- a.) **Faculty Report Jane Higgins-** We found out a couple weeks ago our Sabbatical was potentially not going to happen, and it was quite shocking and challenging for those that have been here for 8 years or so to hear that. The staff were planning on coming to the meeting that was scheduled for February 14th to talk to the board, but that meeting date has now changed. We want to know if we can come to the next meeting to talk to the board about the history, policy, and bring our thoughts on that. **Brenda Stein** That will be on the agenda. **Jane Higgins** If we could get about 40 minutes to have the staff come and talk about that. We would like to know if you have any kind of time line about when that will be decided. **Brenda Stein** We haven't even discussed it yet. **Jane Higgins** That is something I would like to be taken into consideration for the next meeting. WE have two eight grade teachers that had planned on that for the last six years and are feeling pretty out of sorts about that. Also, if we could have a time slot that is closer to the beginning of the meeting, so they can speak and go home. **Leann Tourzan** We were wondering about the Director Evaluation, that wasn't on the agenda. **Brenda Stein** It's not on this agenda, but it is on the next one. **Sarah Trujillo** Since this was an emergency meeting some of the things that we had planned on having at our monthly meeting will be done at our next meeting. **Jane Higgins** Why are we holding this one and not the Feb. 14th one? **Brenda Stein** Since we needed to hold an emergency meeting, to elect a new board member, we would have a week in between, instead of two weeks in a row. **Jane Higgins** For the future, we set up our staff meetings to coincide with the board meetings. There is still a lot of tension between the staff and the director I want you to be aware of that. This next week most of the teachers are heading down to Sacramento to do a training. That is a nice renewal we leave Friday and come back Monday. **Leann Tourzan** It is an annual conference at Rudolf Steiner College. We have been going since the school opened. Also, the faculty is also wondering how it will be set up for them at the next meeting, will it be a panel? That sort of thing. Can you give us some information before the meeting on how you would like to present? **Brenda Stein** The best thing to do would be to give us any information that you have ahead of time so that we can

review. If we can put it in the packet with the agenda we can look over and digest before the meeting. **Leann Tourzan** And, for those that want to come and talk would you like it to be a panel discussion? In another room? **Brenda Stein** I will think on it. **Jane Higgins** In the past we have had it set up in a classroom, so the board and faculty could talk, and the board could ask questions if needed.

- b.) **Director's Report- Karen Bailey** I just finished up a parent orientation, we have been having two a month. We have had packed rooms for that. The enthusiasm for this education in the valley is growing and it is so exciting. We also recently had our meeting of charter schools with Michelle Cummings here. WE meet four times a year, and it was our turn to host. We have our audit done. It looks good. Lottery will be done at the end of February, so we are getting our sibling enrollment in now.

VII. Action Items

- a.) **Discussion of New Board Member- Brenda Stein** John Briggs is interested in joining our board so we can go ahead and start the interview. John, why do you want to join the board? **John Briggs** Primarily because I have a granddaughter in Leann's class, and she has a little sister, and she will be attending here. My wife and I wanted to be a participant in our granddaughters' futures. We heard there was a need for folks that had some experience, and I believe I do. **Monica Rathjen** I'll jump right in with the more personal question. I don't know you well, having just met you at the last meeting, but I am curious, what are three things in your life that you are passionate about? **John Briggs** Number one would be family, our how life really revolves around our kids and their kids. We relocated here to be closer to our grandson, and then our other grandchildren were born. Another would be new endeavors. I have done a lot of different things career wise, and I am always looking for new challenges. I enjoy the opportunity of overcoming obstacles. I enjoy sports and hiking as well. Trying to improve health and body wise. **Monica Rathjen** Where did you relocate from? **John Briggs** I was raised in Anaheim CA. and then moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma for 23 years, then to Jackson Hole, WY for 8 years. Then here in 2007. **Michelle Gury** Are you involved in any other groups or do you sit on any other boards. **John Briggs** Not currently, in the past I have been involveld with Rouge Valley Country Clubs. **Leann Tourzan** Do you have any experience with Waldorf Education? **John Briggs** No, but I am interested. **Brenda Stein** Do you have any questions for the board? **John Briggs** No, after attending the last meeting, which was very informative, and meeting with you, Brenda, I have a general concept of where things stand.

- b.) **New Board Member vote**

Motion Approved

Sarah Trujillo I make a motion for John Briggs to serve on the board for a term of two years.

Monica Rathjen I second the motion.

Aye – 4 (Stein, Rathjen, Gury, Trujillo)

No – 0

VIII. Discussion Items

- a.) **Faculty Liaison Brenda Stein** We need to have a faculty liaison. I was just assuming it would be either Jane, Leann or both. **Leann Tourzan** Both **Michelle Gury** Do we need to change the bylaws, if we are changing the make up of the board? **John Briggs** At the last meeting there was a motion that everyone agreed on, doesn't that need a bylaws amendment? I believe it probably does. **Karen Bailey** I don't believe the bylaws ever allowed for it. **John Briggs** There is a provision in there called qualifications, article 3 section 2. I would suggest that we amend the bylaws to have a provision that says that faculty be precluded from serving on the board. **Brenda Stein** So we can bring the rewording of that section of the bylaws to the next meeting for approval **Jane Higgins** Are you open to discussion on this? For the background of why you would want to do that. **Brenda Stein** Discussion among the board, but it is not under public comment, or faculty report, and we did discuss at our last meeting. **Sarah Trujillo** I feel that we need to have a definition of what the faculty liaison is, because I feel that when I voted on that, it was my understanding that the faculty would still be included in the board meetings, and that their input would be still be part of it, just that they would not be voting members. **Monica Rathjen** I had the same understanding. So perhaps a faculty liaison is different from a non-voting member of the board. I didn't feel that we were voting to preclude teachers from any board service, just voting. **Leann Tourzan** I think there is potential for us to be able to vote on certain things without it being a conflict of interest. There is potential for conflict of interest with parents serving on the board as well. **Sarah Trujillo** Michelle, Brenda and I went to the ethics training that was hosted at Logos, and it is true that there is possible conflict of interest for anyone that serves on a board. I think our vote last week was based on the feedback that we got from the Medford School Board that they felt it was not appropriate for us to have faculty as voting member of the board, and that was something that we needed to deal with right away. **Brenda Stein** My thought was that the board is the board, and the faculty liaison was the person who would come and brings backs to the faculty what happens at the board meeting and brings to the board what happened at staff meetings. **John Briggs** To deal with this, I suggest that we have a definition for the work liaison, and what their duties and

responsibilities are. If we can make that a part of the bylaws. I think if we did that it would resolve everything and eliminate confusion. **Monica Rathjen** During that future discussion, I have also spoken with the OSBA attorney and I have some additional information from their point of view on this issue, and I can share that. **Michelle Gury** I agree that faculty needs to be heard from, but I think the vote needs to be only board members. **Brenda Stein** Monica, could we hear that information for the OSBA attorney now? **Monica Rathjen** It is brief. I encourage any of you to use their 1-800 number, and it is a great resource. I talked to an attorney, regarding this issue, voting employees on school boards in Oregon is only allowed on Oregon Charter Schools. Charter Schools have more leeway as far as how they operate their board make-up. He said it is not uncommon for teachers to vote on board in Oregon Charter Schools. Grass roots schools often value that faculty, and sometime even director input. He said that they would need to recuse themselves if there is conflict of interest and sometimes that line can be a bit fuzzy. This attorney's personal advice was that the OSBA does not recommend having voting staff members, but he has seen it work well in other schools. He said it is unique to each school, and what works there. I am waiting to hear back, because he was going to talk to a person there that is the charter school expert to see if there is anything they would like to add. **Leann Tourzan** Since we are not part of a teacher's union, I feel it would be empowering for us to have some say in issues that do not bring a conflict of interest. I feel like having this brought without discussion, to a faculty that is already feels like there are other issues. **Brenda Stein** I feel like those other issues are why, at our last meeting we unanimously agreed that this should happen on the strong recommendation of the MSB, and our attorney. So, what we need to decide is the position of the liaison, and if they will be allowed to participate in the meeting as a whole, or if they will bring their reports, and bring back to the faculty reports from the board. **Sarah Trujillo** I don't think I would have voted the way I voted if I thought that it meant that faculty would not be able to talk during faculty meetings or participate. **Michelle Gury** I think it is valuable to have the faculty be part of the discussion. But I think the vote should be just board members. The other thing I have seen work would be to give half a vote to the director, and half to the faculty. **Karen Bailey** We could look at what other schools use to define faculty liaison. **Michelle Gury** I would be willing to do that and would like to work with you Jane to make sure that the wording is right. **Monica Rathjen** I agree with Sarah that the reason I voted the way I did was because of the potential for conflict of interest. board. But when I voted the way I did my understanding was that they would essentially retain all their former roles they had and just not vote. I don't see it as a big thing to draft. In my opinion. **Brenda Stein** So, Michelle what I hear is that you would like to work with Jane to draft something and get it to us before the next meeting. **Michelle Gury** In order for

us move forward as a board is to get policies and procedures into writing and this would help us to do that. **Jane Higgins** When we signed up for the board, we signed up with the same responsibilities as all of you, I don't think it should be any different. **Monica Rathjen** I agree with John, that we just need an amendment to the bylaws, one sentence is enough, we can vote on that at the next board meeting. **Brenda Stein** I don't see why we can't define it so that it is clear. IT was my understanding from the last meeting that they were removed from the board. If Michelle is willing to define that I don't see an issue with that. **Monica Rathjen** If you want to write it all out again. But it is my opinion that their role has not changed, except that they are no longer voting members.

b.) **Charter Renewal Karen Bailey** The next step is the Medford School Board hearing on February 12th. They would like to have three to five people come and speak for three minutes each. The faculty has picked the teachers they would like to speak. Dara Nikolic and Hannah Jackson. A parent was invited, but I don't know if they have agreed. I think a representative of the board to speak as well. We will hear ten days after that of their intent to renew. The latest response letter is here. They didn't say any of the proposed changes would be approved for sure. They broke the rest up into two categories; requires more discussion, or not likely to be approved. The things on the table will require some planning, so we need to figure out what our priorities. **Leann Tourzan** I feel that adding seats to kindergarten should be a priority. **Karen Bailey** That could be a negotiation tool as well. If we say we are willing to lower the cap on the other grades, even to 29, and raise the cap for kindergarten, it is just a shift, not really asking for more seats. **Leann Tourzan** The homeschool program I don't feel is as important, and it would be adding a program that would take away from what we are already trying to build. **Karen Bailey** I disagree because I feel that would be an area that our specialty teachers could take care of. It would be a one day a week program, it would give them and us additional income. **Karen Bailey** Michelle, would you be willing to come and speak as a representative of the board? **Karen Bailey** We need to set the next meeting for the Charter Renewal Meeting. I have not had any indication that they will not renew for the full five years. So as far as ranking items on this list. I think it would be great if we could get them to loosen up on their expectations of test scores. To me that is the most important thing. If we can get them to say that if we can show growth, rather than showing 1st and 2nd graders being on grade level with reading, because I have showed the Waldorf curve. **Michelle Gury** I do feel like it is important for the Medford School Board to understand that part of our lower test scores are not a result of the curriculum, but because some parents choose to opt out, and in our small school, those opt outs have a big impact on the scores. **Karen Bailey** I would like to schedule a meeting for Friday, February 23rd at 8:30 am.

c.) **Budget Committee- Karen Bailey** Henry, who is Carol Whitridge's husband, was interested in serving on the board, but thought that might be a conflict of interest. He came to our first Budget Committee meeting. We have a lot of teachers that are interested, we have a group of four or five teachers, Tracy and me, and we need board members on that committee. We have a suggested meeting time for that, which is Thursday February 15th at 3:30. We will look at this year's budget as a template and build on that looking at worse case as far as what the district gives us, as well as best case scenario. **Monica Rathjen** I cannot commit to serving on that committee, but I can attend that meeting.

Open Executive Session OR192.660(2)(b)

Adjourn Executive Session

IX. Thank you's

X. Summarize Important upcoming dates/ Confirm next meeting- Brenda Stein

Budget Committee February 15th at 3:30 pm, Charter Renewal Committee Meeting Friday, February 23rd at 8:30 am, and our next Board Meeting will be March 7th at 5:30 pm. Field Trip Policy Work Session February 14th at 1:30pm.

XI. Closing Verse

XII. Meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by: Sarah Trujillo

Minutes approved by: _____
Board President