

Montessori Del Mar Board

Meeting minutes from Open Meeting, taken by Rebecca Yaffe
November 3, 2021

Attendees at Open: Justine Lemos, Zoe Sheppard, Havana Davidson, Erika Freeman, Rebecca Yaffe, Susana Jung, Chloe Reed, Alicia Abuliak

Open Minutes

1. Move to approve September minutes. Motion made to substitute the word *staff* for *adults* and to approve the minutes. All in favor except Alicia who was not yet present.

2. Move to approve agenda. Pointed out don't need to approve agenda.

3. Directors report presented by Chloe

COVID

Rapid tests.

Susana and Chloe officially decided not to make MdM a testing site. The previously discussed kits are for training anyway, there is too much challenge involved in becoming a site and we don't have the resources. So our official line is that we are not an official testing site but simultaneously please contact her to get a a rapid test if needed after an illness, travel, etc.

First case.

We had our first case on campus. Everyone handled it well. We followed a clear protocol. There was an acceptance of the plan and lots of communication over the following week. There was zero push back or questioning.

Following discussion had.

J: Any movement towards changing our masking policy as vaccine rolls out towards younger kids?

C: State and county already don't require outdoor masking, it is our school policy. No changes put on table by us. Only when county risk level is less.

J: Where are we now?

C: 20 or so cases a day.

Z: Mentioned change in Bay Area.

A: No masks in other schools, outside, and is okay.

C: Case rate and risk assessment plus adults prefer masks at all times.

A: Outdoors is not high risk.

C: We are not distancing. We are still close, adults and kids hugging etc. Consistency offered is also helpful. Lack of it opens up too much in the protocols.

H: Not out of the weeds. Let's leave them on till shit is over.

A: Let's revisit outdoor masking when county is less high risk.

E: Loves not having sick kid in 2 years.

C: Masks still working and are not interfering with school. We have had one case in 20 months. Policy is tied to county risk level. Will re-evaluate when risk level decreases substantially.

Boosters.

Staff are eligible. They are offered a clinic on Nov 10th. CDPH is not requiring a 3rd dose to be considered fully vaccinated. That is official for now. If it changes we will need to follow CDPH guidelines.

Thanksgiving break.

Sense is community would like to be open after break rather than like last year. Plan is to stay open and require testing for 1. Travel on any public transport. 2. Indoor gatherings with any unvaccinated, unmasked people. 3. Moving through any public spaces unmasked and not distanced. Our policy for tests will be rapid tests with a requirement to get PCR after 2/3 days (or within week) of travel. It is not perfect. Goal is to keep kids in school. But testing only part of mitigation which returns us to masks and self attestation.

We are continuing PCR test weekly for athletes. We were accepting 2 rapid test but mostly people do PCR. The basketball team is getting tested on Tuesdays.

It is day three of the nutrition program. It is a completely new chef and not trained by outgoing chef. Trying things out. Chloe is not wanting to micromanage and it is not a board issue. People can contact board, she doesn't want to have to talk about it at every meeting. Mostly great, lots of kids participating. Figuring it out. Kids are still eating in shifts to prevent co-mingling. Primary teachers are still serving their kids.

Classrooms are still trucking along. Parent teacher conferences had 100% participation. Teachers learn through them too. For Primary ones the teachers found themselves in an educational role. Chloe and Holly do less of that.

4. Susana presented financial information.

Tax return was filed and reviewed by Board and noted in the record.

Review of quarter 1 profit and losses. Net income -31,000. End of October we are in the black and so it is all in flux. Fundraising goal 40,000-60,000 is still accurate.

Rent will go back to full price in December - we have had a 15% reduction during COVID.

New from last meeting, we will see California Relief Fund COVID grant for 15,000.00 in last month (October.)

5. Publicity presented by Justine.

Continue to publicize school. Still don't have strong pod so same small pod. Will start to publicize Christmas tree sales soon.

Run down of how to help - at 9:05 or 9:10 AM "like, comment and share" to extend our reach. The more people who pay attention to a post the more it will propagate out.

Elika stated that some people indicated in the survey that they would be willing to help with that. Justine states that the teachers are providing nice pictures for content.

6. Fundraising report presented by Elika

We had our first event. We all gathered, it was fun and successful. We raised 1500.00

Next event is Xmas tree sales. People in community already excited. Many details followed regarding Lisa's creation of website for online ordering (going live tonight), inquiries and sales already happening, Incense Cedar trees donated to sales event, volunteer coordination for calls to 220 previous customers as well as for the unloading and sales days themselves, gender norms and expectations, and what images to use to publicize and how to make them consistent design wise in the various forms they would appear.

Havana and Elika are close to creating a meeting time for the fundraising committee, either the first or last Friday of each month during school hours. They are waiting to hear back from Lisa. When they decide they will send out info and look for solid members for the committee.

Chloe asked how to followup on individual fundraising plans/goals. Last year this brought in approximately \$12 - 15,000. Discussion about challenges of using last year's individual fundraising pages and if feasible to offer creating new ones. Discussed Susana being trained how to make them by Justine.

Discussion on how to best use an email campaign as well.

7. No public comments.

8. Next meeting set for December 1st at 6 pm.