

Western Communities Montessori Society

Meeting of Directors - Minutes



Meeting Date: December 12, 2024
Meeting Location: 4075 Metchosin Road
Attendees: April Sim, Michelle McClure, Andrea McCoy, Magnus Hanton, Matt Loken, Anastassia Bennett, Crispin Murphy
Online Attendees: Janet Mackenzie, Colin Doylend
 In Society: Robby, Liz, Elliott, Peter, Naomi
Regrets: Eric Ambroso, Luke Geiger
Distribution: All Attendees, Board Members including Ex-Officio Members, Society

Item	Discussion
1.	Call to Order – 6:40pm Request to turn on cameras for those online for proper duty of care
2.	Adoption of Agenda 1. Any new agenda items: EDIB Committee suggested Proposal for summer soccer camp 2. Motion to adopt the agenda – Michelle motion, Matt second, all approve
3.	Adoption of Previous Minutes 1. Motion to adopt the previous minutes (November 17, 2024) A word was missed. Need to include “discussion”. Add that. Motion to approve as corrected: Michelle motion, Matt second, all approve
4.	Reports 1. Reports included in the board meeting package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of School Report- Magnus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - April requested to explain the format and new revision of reporting. More metrics and data to demonstrate relationship to programs and strategic plan and the overall sense of mission and vision if we are aligning it to be that way. • PAC Report – Janet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PAC web page now available and up for PAC and parents to communicate. The holiday market brought in \$6k. • Finance Committee Report- Anastasia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed changes to withdrawal policy and would like to make the fee unrefundable with certain parameters. Anastasia requested motion to adjust Board policy to reflect the change for 2025/2026.

	<p>MOTION to adopt proposed changes into policy manual from finance committee (related to #1 in report). Anasstasia motion, Matt Second, Michelle all approve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Table discussion #2 for next report (due to Luke’s absence). - Approach to this year’s budget was more conservative which results in projected budget is better than anticipated. - Vision Grant reward notification to know in March/April 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building and Site Committee Report- Matt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being pressed to make decision regarding electrical work from contractors. Other price for the whole project will be wrapped and finalized. Waiting for the total estimates. Next move will be to execute if projects are within the estimated budget. - Question from Society: Do you have multiple bids? Answer: Due to the low cost of the projects and the urgency, we are going with the one trusted contractor. <p>2. Discussion, questions, and clarifications on the submitted reports</p> <p>April reminded the Board to complete their information and survey results and upload them into the Spreadsheet that Eric made by the end of the year.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Old Business</p> <p>1. Approve Building & Site Terms of Reference – not able to discuss due to secretary failing to include in package. Move to January.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>New Business</p> <p>1. Rebranding of Westmont Secondary Program (as per Priority Setting 4.2) Magnus: Historically, there has been debate concerning Westmont’s name and how it encompasses what is provides and how it operates. Due to investments recently being made, reexamining the naming so that it reflects the nature, focus and design of the highschool. Recommend distinguishing it from the primary school, as a clear demarcation of how it’s distinguished among the rest of the Westmont.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question from Society: Is this purely branding or do we have to register as a new Montessori with the Ministry? Answer: No. The only thing the ministry would get involved is if things need to move, if there are administrative changes, it wouldn’t impact the overall function and registration and position we have with the Ministry. - Question from Society: Is the name change more for attraction or retention?

	<p>Answer: It provides a distinction for the kids to make them feel a bit separated and higher in education. To mark it as an enetity that provides elevated learning for elevated learners. It's bridging the gap so we get to a critical mass of students so that it attracts students and retains those present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question from Society: If we rebranded, would we need to still have Montessori certified teachers? Answer: We are still a Montessori school and would need to comply with standards set. - Question from Society: What is the cadence of the graduation of students? What type of designs can we create to amplify their accomplishments? Answer: There are transition celebrations for those coming out of their 3-year set school. <p>2. Review Magnus' Job Description – tabled for January meeting (secretary failed to include job description in package to society)</p> <p>3. Ad-Hoc EDIB Committee - Andrea More representation at a governance level is needed to better reflect the Global Majority of families and students currently in society as well as build stronger partnerships with local First Nations and Indigenous peoples. It could reflect a different course of action with building relationships with community stakeholders, providing vision to the organization on topics and equal representation at a governance level. Magnus highly supportive of that.</p> <p><i>Action Item: Andrea to create ToR for committee and submit for Board approval at next meeting.</i></p> <p>4. Proposal for Soccer Camp - Colin Juan De Fuca soccer coach spoke with Colin regarding possible summer camp for soccer. This might be a new revenue opportunity for the school. He is an alumni Jayden Jesk. Anasstasia is planning to coordinate and plan for the summer camps. Will work with Colin and the information.</p> <p><i>Action Item: Colin to sent summer camp proposal to Magnus and Board.</i></p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Business from the Floor</p> <p>1. Is there a way to have the session online again for the society?</p>

	If we did that online, then people wouldn't be able to ask questions. We want to make sure that everyone can access and be a part of the conversation. We want to also control what we can and avoid misunderstanding.
8.	Meeting Review and Adjournment – Andrea motion, Crispin second, all approved 1. Adjourned at 8:07pm