



**The Community Roots School Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 3, 2016 6:30 p.m.  
330 N. James Street

## Agenda

1. Board Training- 6:30-7:00
2. Call meeting to order – Dan
3. Reading of Community Roots School Mission Statement – Jen  
*Rooted in our local community, we learn in an authentic Montessori environment, growing as conscientious and joyful learners, inspired to lead in the world community.*
4. Consent Agenda
  - Approve April Meeting Minutes
  - Approve April Special Meeting minutes
5. Audience with Visitors (Audience members may make comments to the board on any topic)
6. Administrator Report – Miranda Traeger (7:15-7:25)
7. Committee reports (SFSD Board, Fundraising, Finance) (7:25-7:35)
8. Discussion Items and Actions (7:35-8:30)
  - Lease update - Miranda
    - Discussion
  - Annual meeting - Miranda
    - Discussion
  - Elections bylaw change - Jen
    - Discussion/Action (to send to voters)
  - Policy Review Packet, A/B Board Governance- Jen
    - First Reading/Discussion
  - PACE Restated Trust Agreement
    - Discussion
    - Action

(7:00-7:15)

learn. grow. lead.



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VISITORS: Meetings of the school board are for the members to conduct official school business. All meetings are open to the public, except executive sessions, which may be called according to Oregon law. Members of the public desiring to address the board are asked to contact the administrator at least one week in advance of the meeting. Large groups are asked to designate a primary spokesperson.

**The Community Roots School Board Meeting**  
**April 5, 2016**  
**Minutes**

Board Members Present: Dan, Jessie, Kate, Jason

Staff Present: Susan, Miranda

1. Board Training-Adolescent Program/Susan 6:30-7:00

2. Call meeting to order – Dan 7:07PM

Jen Joined on the phone

3. Reading of Community Roots School Mission Statement – Kate

***Rooted in our local community, we learn in an authentic Montessori environment, growing as conscientious and joyful learners, inspired to lead in the world community.***

4. Consent Agenda:

- Approve March meeting minutes
  - Jessie/Jason for Consent Agenda
  -
- Approve March Policy Updates
- Approve Policy JEBA-Early Entrance

**Kate moved, Jason second**

**Approved Unanimously**

5. Audience with Visitors (Audience members may make comments to the board on any topic)

- Lisa Gerlits - (Read from written testimony, will email to Miranda) Kindergarten full-day vs. half-day and the relationship with Acorn. Concerned about the ethics of the relationship.
- Jennifer Traeger - Kindergarten, asked the board to consider the long-term option of having it's own children's house, consider making statement to enrolling parents that honors the value and benefit of the 3-year program. Having the full-day option benefits more children in the community.
- Greg Murphy - consider families that come and go and transition.
- Heather Desmarteau Fast - a lot of people don't understand the 3-year cycle and their family found out about it after they enrolled later.
- Amanda Petrik - founder history and partnership with Bluebird at the time. From the spirit of the founders, the discussion was always around full-day. Half-day was considered
- Ms. Hilary - hope to be as diverse as we can, racially, economically, and in every way. We might be missing out on diversity if we do half-day.

- Ms. Susan - parent education for the community on the benefits of Montessori.
- Jen - It was surprising to learn of the relationship ending with Arcon. We are now moving forward.

## 6. Administrator Report – Miranda Traeger

- Highlights read from the written report.
- All School Annual Meeting will be added to the calendar.
- Jen asked a question about the substitutes
- Jen asked about monthly reporting on move spending
  - No money has been spent

## 7. Committee reports (SFSD Board, Fundraising, Finance)

- Facilities:
  - James - looking to be done in May for first modular. Astrid is working to collect furniture. Met with the building inspector. There are some issues with timing on the things that CRS wants. Flooring is donated. Will be meeting with Andy and Joel next week. The building official said the Pioneer Playground cost could be \$50,000 - \$100,000.
  - Astrid - (Handout) There is now a very strong chance we will have to open without some of the things we wanted.
  - Heather - Elise Brown and Heather did a teacher survey about outdoor landscaping and greenhouse options.
  - Miranda -
    - Join Board Meeting
    - Communication with District to respect their commitment to CRS
    - SFC will consider \$20,000 budget, plus \$1,000
  - Jen -
    - Hold discussion tonight for a special or emergency meeting.
  - Dan -
    - Should we communicate with the district
  - **Jen moved to move forward with a meeting with the SFC church administration team, Jason second.**
  - **Passed unanimously.**
  - Dan and Kate were nominated to meet with the church
  - Miranda will meet in person with Andy tomorrow to discuss this new development

## 8. Discussion Items and Actions

- Elections bylaw change - Jen
  - Discussion/Action (to send to voters) - TABLED
- Policy Review Packet,A/B Board Governance - Jen

- First Reading/Discussion - TABLED
- Kindergarten budget
  - Discussion/Action
  - Budget is not much different for half-day vs. full-day. It is a significant challenge to find a half-day teacher. We will also allow first-grade openings. Miranda recommends full-day. There are currently 10 out of 14 spots going to siblings in the 2016-17 Kinder. We will continue to cap at 14.
  - **Jason moved to approve full time kindergarten, Jessie seconded**
  - **Approved unanimously.**
- PACE Restated Trust Agreement
  - Discussion/Action - TABLED

Meeting adjourned 9:02PM

# Community Roots School

## April Special Board Meetings-Facilities

### 4.18.16

Present: Jason, Jessie, Jen, Kate, Dan

Discussion of the move to the modular. Miranda was approached by the Silverton Friends Church about the availability of their school facilities. Kate and Dan meet with church leadership. It is a sensitive issue as the church has provided notice to the Silverton Christian School to dissolve the relationship. The facility has enough space to house all of CRS. There were 18 students in the k-8 program and 40 students in the preschool. The preschool will continue.

All of this is happening quickly and there are many considerations. We must be sensitive that other families are losing their school. The families of the Christian School asked if they could submit a proposal. The church is requesting all proposals by April 22. Church needs to make a decision on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There is a SFSD Board meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Kate has started a draft proposal using the template provided by the church (see handout).

Requesting action to move forward drafting and submitting the proposal.

Kate walked through the proposal.

Cost is \$30,000 per year. Currently have \$26,000 in the projected budget.

Four classrooms build in 2011. Every upper and lower elementary classroom has a bathroom.

There is additional land around the church that may be available but the parcels are oddly shaped.

Jen comments/questions:

- A longer lease period would be more desirable since it will be very difficult for CRS to find another home in the near future.
- Requested that the teachers visit the school.
- Bus cost: Miranda stated that she believed it would be minimal
- Concern about any requirements that may need to be met if we move in there with our number of children and our status as a public school.
- Requested early and often conversation with Andy.
- Concern about the rush decision and the timing but understands that this is a great opportunity and the risk may be worth it.

### **Audience with visitors**

- Concern about the creep of the church into the school. Should consider removing school/church collaboration language from the proposal.
- Hilary:
  - Appreciate the work and relationship with the district.
  - The new facility provides the teachers with hope and inspiration for their classrooms.
  - Understands that there is some risk.
- Mark Weiss
  - Beginning date of lease-does it provide enough time? Committed to be out of these building by the 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Is there an option to buy the buildings? Not an option at this time.
  - Consider security issues and preschool access.
  - Assure that the lease amount includes all insurance, taxes, fees

- Is this a fair price? Based on other Charter school agreements, it is a fair price. The church is familiar with what we are paying now.
- May negotiate that we do landscaping
- Astrid
  - Concern about keeping everyone up in the air until we lose it all.
  - Concern about logistics
- Miranda
  - Excited to have a gym as the kids need a place to get that energy out when they cannot go outside.
  - Classrooms are small (about the same size as what we would have with the modular)
  - Wants to be considerate of what is happening with the Christian School.
  - Plans to discuss with Andy Bellando tomorrow.
  - Has concerns about what it will take to get the modulars up to par.
  - We will always have the limiting factor of only 90 students in this location. The ability to serve more children is a benefit and will increase grant funding.
- Jen Weiss
  - Need to figure out potential City requirements ASAP
- Val
  - Question about when we will submit the proposal.
  - Plan is to submit tomorrow, church decision Sunday
  - Question about the plan to remodel-while some work could be done, there is nothing that precludes CRS from having a school there with no changes.
- Jen Traeger
  - Does not expect that there are code issues as it is an “E occupancy”
  - Timeline is for sure Sunday? Yes
  - Consider funerals-may have school days trump funerals
  - Hears and understands risk but feels it is a risk we need to take.
- Tanya
  - Will preschool and K be in the same space? Rooms are side by side but may negotiate another room.
  - Student passing through the hallway – will they see religious iconography?
  - Need an option for greenspace outside.
  - Existing classroom secured, would need supervision in unsupervised area.

Discussion about the history of the Christian school and Friends church.

Jessie: Reflected over the opportunity that has presented itself to CRS and it has become more and more clear that it is something we must act on it. Maslow's Hierarchy of needs keeps coming into her thoughts. In order for people to achieve the higher, more noble states of education, they must have their basic needs met first, which includes shelter. In hearing (teacher) Hilary Conroy's statements that she can see so much potential to dream at the proposed new facility, Jessie is inspired by how much our school community needs this. Our students and teachers need to be able to dream and be inspired by their surroundings and I feel that we owe that opportunity to them.

**Action:** Jen moves to approval the submission of the proposal, Jason seconds. Unanimously approved.

**4/26/16**

Present: Jason, Jen, Kate, Dan

Kate submitted the proposal to the Silverton Friends Church. It was the only proposal received. The have issued a letter indicating their intent to pursue a lease agreement with CRS. There has been much enthusiasm from the church.

There has been discussion between Andy and Miranda and Dan and Miranda attended the SFSD Board work session. Andy wanted to be sure that we were aware of and navigating the communication needed for a change like this. The Board indicated that they thought it was a good idea to pursue this option. Todd White asked about the loss of the revenue from CRS (\$20,000). Potential to use the area that CRS would have had as a gravel parking lot. There may be a fee for the changes to the contract and plans. Need to consult with an attorney. There have been no indications that this decision will impact the relationship. The Board also asked about potential cost savings now that they do not have to continue to provide the facility for CRS and Andy will look into that and get back to the Board.

Two newspapers contacted Miranda. She has not yet provided comment. Christine Golden from the church provided comment. CRS will need to draft a public statement for both families and the media. Suggestions to be sure the communication is positive about the support from the district. Making a point that as a charter school we are still a part of the district.

#### **Audience with visitors:**

Matt Miller

- One benefit of staying here is that it is always here.
- Recommended a discussion with the district about the future chances of CRS returning if it was needed.
- Need to consider the terms of the lease related to advance notice and the conditions of ending the lease.

Astrid: Question about the \$26,000 traffic impact fees that CRS has paid to have children in this building.

Jen Weiss: Need to assure there are not any building requirements from the City that we will need to consider. Kate expressed that the church trustees are confident in the facilities ability to accommodate a school.

Irene:

- Very nice to have a facility that is the right fit for our school.
- Increase in student numbers means an increase in grant funds which will help with school operations.
- Read a note from a friend who is a family who was a part of the Christian School. It is clearly very difficult time for those families and CRS needs to be considerate of their experience.

Elyce Brown: If we only have a three-year lease, we will need to start contingency planning now.

Miranda noted that as a community we need to realize the small chance of CRS ever owning their own building. It is very difficult for a school of this size to have the capital needed to have their own facility. To even put a shovel in the ground it is around \$250,000.

Next steps/action:

- Formal action to pursue lease
- Formal action to identify the negotiation team
- Formal action to procure legal counsel
- Identification of priorities

Miranda will also check with Christine and check with the city.

**Action:** Jason moves to approve that CRS to negotiate a lease with Silverton Friends Church, Jen seconds. Unanimously approved.

**Action:** Kate moves to approve Dan, Astrid, Miranda as the negotiation team, Jason seconds. Unanimously approved.

**Action:** Kate moves to authorize up to \$3,000 to consult an attorney if Miranda deems it necessary post-OSBA review, Jason seconds. Unanimously approved.