



Legacy of Dr. Josie R. Johnson Montessori
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 6pm - 8pm

Board meeting will be conducted via Zoom - an in person meeting is not practical due to the pandemic

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5519251469?pwd=RSStZSEFYZTVTTWJlVDZQNxFLTWVldz09>

No Password Required

1. Open- Read Mission & Vision- Read by Edwinna Johnson

- a. **Mission:** JJ Legacy School provides an excellent and equitable Montessori education in North Minneapolis to an intentionally diverse community of students.
- b. **Vision:** Our students will develop the character strengths, social and emotional skills, creativity, passion for learning and college-preparatory academic capabilities that will enable them to lead lives of joy and purpose.

2. Community Voice

- a. This is a time for the community (teachers, parents, individuals of the community) can bring questions and concerns to the board.
- b. Dawn Burns asked a question: Does the board have a plan to increase community participation with increasing student numbers?
 - i. Ms. T right now we are trying to use word of mouth and getting space at different community events. Covid has presented an extra challenges as many community events were not happening. Ms. T is open to sitting down with families and the PTO to come up with a solid plan to increase enrollment. We have 7 students starting this week and 2 next week. Making adjustments to the building to possible open up space to bring in a few more students.
- c. Mrs. Bradley: is there a way for you to email teachers ahead of time to see if they have questions or concerns to bring forward?
 - i. Edwinna: We post the agenda ahead of time and what you have suggested is a good idea. We will discuss this at our operations meeting.
- d. Mrs. Bradley: when it comes to boarding for the board it told me to pick from the people on the list but then made me vote for everybody. Is there a reason this happened?
 - i. Shawna Maryanovich: This year we were working on an inclusive and compliant method for voting as voting onsite in a pandemic is not the most inclusive. This also allowed us a way to reach as many people as possible in a secure an anonymous way. We learned that unless we had more candidates running than slots available the system would force people to vote for all of the people to meet these spots. We were unable to get the system to understand that we dont need to fill every seat.

1. We have it in our things to do to find an affordable system that will allow for open seats.
- ii. Mrs. Bradley stated this was much clearer
- e. Dawn Burns
 - i. Will we find out the results of the election tonight?
 - ii. Edwinna: voting closes tonight and we will convene as an operations committee to make sure things get posted and the process is transparent.
- f.

3. Calls for Conflict of Interest

4. Consent Approval- table due to not having quorum

- a. Board Operations Committee: 9/23; 10/21; 10/28; 11/11
- b. Standard Board Meeting Minutes: 10/19

5. Finance: Dawn and Ms. Tonica

- a. Committee update
 - i. Budget is still based on original budget of 120 ADM so numbers may change a little bit
 1. Dawn and Ms. T have a good working budget for the current ADM of 91
 - ii. One of the items not included in the approved budget is for summer school
 1. We will be reimbursed for this 100% which will increase our budget
 2. MDE is giving more back- looking at how to effectively spend this money for the benefit of the kids
 - iii. Cash is getting tight- waiting on federal money to come in
 1. Waiting for MDE to get through the grant approval process
 - a. 75,000 from last fiscal year should be coming in soon
 - iv. Biggest priority is payroll-staff must be paid on time
 - v. Audit- November 30th deadline
 1. Everything is uploaded to the MDE and the numbers have to match within \$5. We do match and Dawn has not heard of any findings for the audits.
 - vi. Fiscal year 2020 we budgeted for an increase to the FUND balance of 13,184 and we came in 12, 238 which will bring our FUND balance up by about 10%.
 1. As long as we can keep doing this and get our enrollment up things will be ok
 - vii. It has been very challenging but we will get through it
 1. Telling vendors that the checks will be out as soon as we get the money
 2. Dawn continues to check on it daily
- b. Questions: None

6. School Leader Report

- a. Employee satisfaction survey
 - i. Emailed the report to the board
 - ii. Shared a few comments
 1. "A place that is welcoming to all"
 2. "Environment where children are number 1"
 3. "Opportunity for growth"
 4. "JJ Legacy is the definition of community- all are heard"
 5. "Genuine care of students"
 - iii. Proud to lead this group of people- even through the challenges COVID and the community violence has caused

- b. Just finished first round of MAP testing- preliminary scores are coming back in- use these scores to make plans accordingly
 - i. Most of the children are pretty low in terms of academics. This is due to regular summer regression and also COVID regression
 - ii. Academic coach will be coming to the board meeting in Decemeber to discuss the scores and what are goals are moving forward
 - iii. Next round of MAP testing starts in December
- c. Urban Ventures- Minneapolis is the only one in the country
 - i. Innovation Center- 5th and 6th graders currently going every Wednesday
 - 1. In talks with Urban Ventures to build an innovation center within the JJ Legacy school building
 - ii. Reading Program- Orton Gillingham (OG)-
 - 1. coming 2x week to work with students needing additional support in reading to get to grade level-
 - a. they are going to be increasing the number of staff by 2 moving forward.
 - 2. This is an extremely expensive and effective program that we are getting for free
- d. COVID Numbers: Numbers are going up
 - i. Doing a good job of keeping the school open
 - ii. No transmission in the school
 - iii. Masks, temp checks and other precautions being taken daily
 - 1. More and more kids showing up without masks- Ms. T will send a reminder to families about making sure to send their students with masks
 - iv. COVID Fatigue is real- trying to allow staff the space they need and time they need
 - v. Food Boxes will be distributed again this week. We want to support the families over the Thanksgiving Holiday when our children are not in the building.
- e. Chromebook Grant- applied to get more chromebooks so we can send these home with students so they can do work at home as well
 - i. Also want to be ready if we have to shift into distance learning
- f. Books for students: we will be sending home books with students for winter break
- g. Highlight Student Leadership Team
 - i. Last year started Black Wall street.
 - 1. Chance to be Entrepreneurs by running a school store that they will then use to support a cause of their choosing.
 - 2. Students currently interested in supporting food scarcity and homelessness
 - 3. They use legacy bucks at the store that will be turned in for real money down the road
 - 4. Academic Plan: Students are taking ownership of their school and bringing this back to their academics
- h. Winter Dance- planned by students leadership team
- i. Celebration this Tuesday to celebrate the children and staff to acknowledge them for meeting goals and overcoming hardships
- j. MN Dept of Education finance Award for 2020 school year

- i. We worked really hard to stay afloat last year and managed to come out with \$12,000 extra for our FUND Balance
- k. Enrollment is going up- families have been very satisfied with how things are being handled over the last 2 years.
- l. Lots of behavior challenges this year- students are still learning how to be in a school and being part of a cohesive unit. They have to relearn how to be with other humans again and how to have structure and academics all day.
- m. Trying to figure out how to support the families that have a lot of needs
 - i. Need winter coats for our older students- we have a lot for the younger ones but not much for our older ones- Adult Small, Medium and Large, XL
 - 1. If you have any gently used coats that you can spare please please donate them now.
- n. Violence in the community
 - i. Have had a couple lockdowns in the past week due to situations happening around us in the community
 - ii. Doing our best not to make our children afraid while also making them aware of what is happening around you.
- o. Thank you Ms. T Video- created by Mrs. Bradley (a new staff member)
 - i. Shout out to all of you who put this together.

7. Board Governance


- a. Voting Opportunity for those that have not voted.
 - i. Voting closes tonight- if you have not voted yet please take this opportunity to do so
- b. Vote for December 21st, 2021 meeting to be postponed to January 18th, 2021 due to individuals traveling for the holidays.
 - i. We may need the presenter Ms. T was going to bring in come in during the January meeting.
 - ii. We will not vote on this today due to not meeting quorum- executive committee will do this
- c. Secretary duties transfer to Lindsey for the January 18th, Board meeting- Jackie will confirm with Lindsey.

8. Committee Updates

- a. Board Operations Committee- Edwinna
 - i. Had to cancel one meeting due to zoom issues
 - ii. We have been working on elections
 - 1. All information on the website
 - 2. Voting closes 11/16/21
 - 3. We are at about 40% engagement in the election at this time- strive for 51% of the community to ensure strong engagement in all areas of the community.
 - a. All teachers and board members
 - b. 30% of parents

9. Adjourn

- Jackie: I motion to adjourn the meeting
- Edwinna: I second this motion

Submitted by: Jacqueline Williams

 Date Approved: JANUARY 18, 2022