

**Wasatch Waldorf Charter School Board Meeting**

**Saturday, September 12, 2015 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm**

**Canellas Restaurant, 204 East 500 South SLC UT 84111**

**Meeting called to order at 2:41pm**

**Present:**

Emily Thunberg, Board Secretary  
Emily Merchant, Executive Director  
Lisa Cannella, Board Member  
Joe Welch, Board Member  
Kim Haleck, Board Vice President  
Jessica Thesing, Board Member  
Ary Faraji, Board Member  
Matthew Pardini, Board Member  
Jeff Beisinger, Board Member

Gopi, Public Member

**Conflict of interest: no member reported having a conflict of interest.**

- 1- Gratitudes – introductions of new board members and staff
- 2- Singing – Pauper sum ego
- 3- Book Discussion: Understanding Waldorf Chapter 3 Discussion. On the Waldorf preschool. Discussion of developmental approach to the preschool age, namely the slowness required with the youngest children. (Emily M.)  
Kim Haleck will lead the book discussion next month, on Chapter 4.
- 4- Executive Director Report (Emily M.)  
Emily M. mentions previous introduction of Kara Salisbury, newly hired administrative assistant.

Emily M. states that number of children enrolled for lottery is currently at 150.

Upcoming trainings and meetings:

- Gradalis training weekend of September 18 and 19 (specific schedule has been sent to board members and staff)
- Utah Association of Public Charter Schools provides trainings on a regular basis; Emily will forward information about those as they are scheduled.
- September 24 there will be an information meeting for people interested in applying to be a teacher at the school, Millcreek Library, 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

Emily M. indicates intention to create Google Drive folders, one of which would be a “Board Book” with resources for board members to be easily accessed electronically.

State School Board has decided that they want increased accountability for charter schools, which is in turn putting pressure on the Utah Association of Public Charter Schools. Charter schools are currently evaluated on four measures; the state wants charter schools to come up with 6 more measures that have to do with student evaluation, and 10 additional measures that have to do with meeting the mission of the school. Emily M. states that we will begin to look at this during the Gradalis training September 18-19. We will have another Google Drive folder that will have the documents for these state requirements.

5- Discussion and Vote on Committee Composition, Schedules and Member Involvement

Emily M. distributes a directory of the committees we have in place, with contact information and what people are working on, both board members and community volunteers. Emily M. will provide an electronic version of this as well.

Emily M. reviews the document, asking if board members are interested in working on any additional committees.

--Lisa states that she is willing to be on the Marketing Committee, specifically to help Matthew with the website.

--Kim states that she is willing to be on the Hiring Committee.

--Matthew states that his wife Atara may be willing to chair the Sewing and Crafts Committee, he will confirm with her.

--Lisa states that she is willing to be on the Sewing and Crafts Committee.

--Jessica states that she is willing to be on the Facility Committee, and chair the School Garden and Farm Committee

--There is no volunteer to chair the School Lunch Committee; Emily M. states that she will begin working on that.

6- Discussion and Vote on Facility (Closed Meeting)

Lisa Canella motions to close the meeting; Joe Welch seconds the motion. A vote is taken, it is unanimous to close the meeting.

Closed meeting begins at 3:46pm, all members present as stated above, for discussion of real estate options.

Emily T. makes a motion to close the closed meeting, Ary seconds the motion. A vote is taken and it is unanimous in the affirmative.

Emily T. makes a motion to have the facility committee make a designer and property recommendation including financial estimates and submit to the board before the next board meeting. A vote is taken and it is unanimous in the affirmative.

Prairie Adams joins the meeting via phone.

7- Discussion and Vote on Alliance Letter

Emily T. recaps the situation: we were asked by the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education to not use the word Waldorf in the name of our school unless we are fully compliant members of the Alliance. The Alliance has stated that they will communicate the steps that will need to be taken in order to be allowed to call the school Wasatch Waldorf Charter School. If we agree to follow this avenue, Emily M. states that we can pay the \$250 Alliance membership fee to join, and then immediately use an alternative name that does include the word Waldorf in the tag (examples of possible names are distributed to the members). Prairie adds information on her background

knowledge of what is happening between the Alliance and The Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA). She states that she believes we should comply with the Alliance and work toward meeting their criteria for fully using Waldorf in the name of school. The alternative name that she recommends, and the one that is also preferred by the majority of members is “Wasatch Charter School, a Member of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education.” Emily M. states that we will not (as of now) change our web address, email addresses, bank account name, etc. We would need to register the name Wasatch Charter School officially, but unofficially we will be known by both names.

Kim makes a motion to send the response letter to the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, as written by Emily M., with the sole change of having the letter be from the entire board instead of just from Emily M.

Ary seconds the motion. A vote is taken, with Matthew abstaining and the rest of the members voting in the affirmative. The motion carries.

Matthew explains his discomfort with working with the Alliance and AWSNA, citing the original intent of Rudolf Steiner with Waldorf education and the fact that Waldorf schools are public schools everywhere in the world except the United States.

Emily M. explains her position that while she agrees with Matthew on a moral basis, by joining the Alliance and working with AWSNA, whether it is strictly what we feel is morally correct or not, it at least gets us a seat at the table to possibly make a difference in the direction of Waldorf schools in America in the future, as well as giving us some legitimacy to certain groups.

Emily M. makes the point that if we join the Alliance and they fail to give us clear steps and work with us appropriately, we may make a different decision down the road.

#### 8- Consent Agenda

Minutes Approval of August 17, 2015

Emily T. motions to approve the minutes of the August 17 meeting and close the meeting. Kim seconds the motion. A vote is taken, with Ary abstaining and the rest of the members voting in the affirmative. The motion carries and the meeting is closed.

Training: Petrash Book Understanding Waldorf Chapter 4 (to be led by Kim Haleck)

Expected Agenda Items:

Important Dates:

Tim and Donna Long: Gradalis Strategic Board Training September 18-19, 2015

Notes from Closed Session regarding real estate issues: (Emily: Do I delete these or do they need to be stored somewhere?)

Emily M. states that Mike Wright has been hired as a developer. Since that time, the owner of the Spring Pines Building has become excessively difficult. Costs are discussed, as outlined in a document distributed by Emily M.

Emily M. states that Spring Pines is fully on the table as an option, in that a phone call could be made Monday and the process could begin. She reviews the reasons this may not be desirable. Emily M. reviews two other options.

A vote is proposed but declined until renovation bids for the other two proposed locations are in. Emily M. will explore additional options as raised by members in the coming week.

A conference call for the board may be scheduled before the next board meeting if a vote is necessary to move forward on a facility.