

## Morningstar Mystery School

### Board of Directors Zoom Call Minutes

Saturday 2/9/17 10am Pacific

- Facilitator: Laura
- Note-Taker: Ealasaid
- Present: Katie, Jenn, Sandra, Ealasaid, Ryan, Ari, Laura, Nancy

Called to order at 10:06am

- Facilitator led everyone in aligning, connecting to Lux, and reciting the Holy Mother prayer.
- Quick checkin: what do you bring to the call today?
- Sandra: wants to move the confirmation of new directors up so that they're here as new directors.
- John: Election report
  - Everybody got confirmed! 15 people voted, 4 people chosen unanimously, one was approved with 13Y, 1A, 1N.
  - Laura will delete the survey.
  - Nancy moves that the new board directors confirmed. Unanimous approval.
  - Ari is resigning.
  - Sandra: Jenn and Ryan's pillars no longer have anybody representing their pillars on the board?
    - Katie is on Research and Alumni
    - Ealasaid is on Teaching.
    - OK, they will rep the boards.
- Approve minutes from previous meeting.
  - Laura moves to approve the minutes, approved unanimously.
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting:
  - Ealasaid: insurance
    - Two quotes so far, one at \$1200 one \$1300. Two more in process.
  - Sandra: Get expense info to John, ribbons for Pcon
    - Expense info almost done.
    - IRS hasn't responded about nonprofit status, due to the shutdown. We have about four days to figure out what to do with that.
  - Ryan: Find someone for the flier.
    - Pillar is working on deeper issues than that right now. Will get done but other stuff needs addressing first.
  - Jenn: Get in touch with scholarship recipient
    - Emailed, hasn't heard back yet.

- Laura: PayPal, Zoom, flier committee stuff, retreat stuff, compose email messages for new board people and to announce election results.
  - PayPal and Zoom are set up!
  - Working on the buttons for the webpage for people to pay dues.
  - Flier committee will proceed as possible.
  - Retreat stuff – needs to follow up but we are close to having a date.
  - Emails for new directors and election went out.
- Sandra showed the ribbons for pcon! They'll also be available to other members going to other cons.
- Ari: hospitality suites come out to about \$1500, so we could do that next year.
  - Sandra: yes, we need to hammer that and any presentations we want to do, by June. Strategic planning!
- Pillar and other standing reports
  - Research & Alumni (Jenn)
    - Haven't met, so nothing new. Will meet soon!
  - Teaching & Curriculum (Ryan)
    - Met yesterday, Laura facilitated because there's a lot of differing views/conflicts and we're trying to resolve that. We've been having a lot of discussion/debate/disagreement around teacher selection process. Had a breakthrough but also a setback. Realized that the thing we thought was the big issue wasn't, that there's something underlying (external teaching letters of rec). But actually, it's about should mstar be in a position to say yes/no to people that want to teach. There are points on either side of this – wanting to ensure quality instruction and safety, but on the other hand the work of MStar is around self-possession, and while R agrees not everyone is called to or should teach, if someone is in a position where they shouldn't teach, they should be able to self-evaluate. Thorn did her intuitive thing and would point at people and say you're a teacher. Is very concerned about the issues he's seen in Reclaiming of an unspoken hierarchy and gatekeeping around teaching. Finds it personally problematic and counter to his own values. This is the issue where the teaching pillar is right now, and that core issue has to be worked out. Once it is, everything else will kind of fall into place from there. Also concerned that the pillar seems to be moving as if this is a decided issue but hasn't actually decided it.
    - Nancy: this is a school-wide issue not just a teaching pillar issue. It's important that the board surface this school-wide somehow, not sure how best to do that. Issues around reputation and direction of the school are inherent in the question of who can teach. Hopes there are ways for people who are neither on the pillar nor the board to be part of this conversation.
    - Ryan: also: in the discussions of who can teach in safety, was not advocating a free for all where people can go off the rails. Is proposing that we have a

mandatory process of teachers and former teachers checking in with each other online and that Mstar teacher ethics and code of conduct would be mandatorially distributed to students. Also contact info for dispute resolution committee so students have a way of alerting us if something goes wrong. There would be some form of teacher surveys. Believes the school would need a way to say no if something is going seriously wrong, but people who want to teach get support and go-ahead. Question of curriculum and what's taught in mstar is an interesting one and there probably should be an approval process to see if something can be taught as part of Mstar.

- Ryan: the code of conduct is something the Board should address, a concise document we can give to someone that would describe our own participant code of conduct. A hospitality statement or something so if a person comes into an mstar event they're given our expectations for people's behavior. Feels that is business for the board, not just the pillar, because it affects the whole school.
- Sandra: we've discussed that a couple times, thought Ryan had agreed that he'd submit a draft we could review. I think we all agree we need an ethical statement like described, but we need someone to draft it. Thought that was going to be Ryan or someone on the pillar. If not, need to get a volunteer for that.
- Laura: the pillar has a lot going on, do they have the bandwidth to do a draft?
- Ryan: discussed it briefly on the call yesterday but ran out of time. We don't have the bandwidth. Has offered up Coru's statement, because it does what this doc needs to do. Respects that some folks don't want to use it, but it's a model of the kind of thing we need.
- [Tempers rising]
- Sandra: the Coru statement isn't useful for a school bc it's for a priesthood; can use as a model but we have to have our own draft. Who has the bandwidth to draft it? Sounds like it's not a gating issue for teaching, but the pillar doesn't have bandwidth to do it. We need someone to do it.
- Laura: sounds like we have to wait until someone has the bandwidth to do the draft. Does teaching pillar need anything else?
- Ryan: no
- Temple & Tech (Laura)
  - Laura: the people having themselves kicked out of forum, figured it out, it was a new WP plugin, thinks it's now solved. In general, good to log out and back in regularly of the forum.
  - Laura: pillar also has ironed out the basic website needs so it's not all "coming soon" when people who get ribbons go check it out. :) Sandra did a big spreadsheet and it was awesome.
  - Laura: pillar is working on paypal stuff, will also have addy for check people soon.
  - Jenn: when R&A have stuff to post, does it need to go through vetting or

- anything?
      - Nancy: recalls we decided Jenn has full authority.
      - Jenn: cool, has stuff to post, will put it up.
    - Retreat Committee (Laura)
      - Laura: mostly got a date down; need confirmation from Cedar. Then can share with the school. He was going to find something near/in Truth or Consequences, alt 4000'.
      - discussion about altitude and how brutal it is if you're not used to it.
  - Checkin: Tuition and Membership Benefits.
 

(aka what are students getting for their dues? Generally this has already been covered under Pillar reports or similar, but we want to keep this in mind as much as possible)
  - Sandra: moves to thank the leaving board members and let them go if they want. We thank Nancy, Jenn, Ari, Ryan for their service. Approved.
  - New Business
    - Ari's resignation
      - Sandra: Ari mentioned that she wanted to step down during the election. We asked her to wait, because adding a board member after the election is much easier. Much more difficult to do during the actual election. So now, we need to think about who we want to ask, and probably ought to have a first, second, third choice. Has been thinking about this, thinks we should ask Ken.
      - Laura: Ken would be great, but he works in a university library and schedule might be tricky. Thinks it's good to reach out to someone who's great but not super involved in the school.
      - General assent that Ken is 1<sup>st</sup> choice.
      - Laura: Tony is doing stuff with teaching pillar again. Sandra: yeah, we don't want to overload him, so not him.
      - We should come up with second choice.
      - Doneby? Discussion. She's not on the pillars, is the previous class to Katie.
      - OK, cool. We have one and two, will cmoe with another if we have to. We have quorum for now.
      - Sandra will email Ken, then let everyone know what's up.
      - Discussion about reps from pillars and situation in Teaching pillar.
    - IRS stuff?
    - Bios of teachers to go on website? Teaching pillar thing.
      - Laura In a previous org it was opt in. People can decide if they want bio, name, pic, etc. That model works well.
      - Sandra: agrees with the opt-in thing. Feels a bit torn about whether or not it should be required of people teaching under the auspices of Mstar. People should be able to look up a teacher if they're saying they're under our auspices. Something to be decided by the Pillar, really.
    - Sales of Star of Opening books at Pcon?

- Can't handle bureaucracy to sell at Pcon this year, but good ot know. E has a box in a the living room from Thorn
  - Sandra: maybe we can do another one! Also, sell SoO on website? Strategic planning stuff.
- PayPal button is set, can Temple & Tech put it up?
  - Discussed above.
- Changing schedule of All-School Chat? Currently it's the fourth Sunday of the month at 11am Pacific, but Nancy has a recurring commitment that makes it very difficult to be on at that time. Can we move to a different day or a slightly later time?
  - Laura proposes we do doodles for Board meetings and for all-school chats to see how accessible we actually can be for folks. Laura will do it
  - Google group for Board! E is doing it.
  - Is 3/9 good for everyone? Yes. But doodle for going forward.
- Go over everyone's action items for next time.
  - Sandra: Email Ken
  - Laura: delete survey
  - Laura: Paypal buttons for dues
  - Laura: doodle polls for board and all-school chat
  - E: Google group for board.
  - Sandra will look into extension. (see below)
- Sandra: one thing not on agenda. When Sandra got our EIN, made a mistake on the form, checked corporation instead of nonprofit. Because of that, IRS is expecting the wrong form from us, by 2/15. called IRS, said to write a letter to folks in Utah and it would take about a month. Started that, but then was on hold while we sorted out the bylaws. Sent it 12/20, which was going to be fine except then the govt was shut down for a month and a half and we haven't heard anything back yet. Someone needs to call the IRS. Takes hours. Pending that, we have to file SOMETHING by the deadline. Thinks the easiest might be to look into whether there's an extension we can file, like you can for personal income tax.
  - Sandra moves: Let's ask John to file an extension for our taxes. Unanimous.
  - Some checking on dates of the bank account.
  - Sandra: We might want to hire a tax consultant.
  - Laura: let's revisit that when we sort out the extension.

John already deleted the election survey, so that's done. :)

- Checking out: 3 words.
- Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to close.

Meeting closed 11:46am Pacific.