

# Morningstar Mystery School

## Board of Directors

### July Meeting

### Minutes

7/17/21

Present: Katie, Louise, Sandra, Ealasaïd, Lyssa

Facilitator: Louise

Called to Order at 10:11am

- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer
- Three word checkin
- Approve minutes from previous meeting
  - approved.
- Pillar and other standing reports
  - Teaching & Curriculum Pillar (Lyssa)
    - Gods of Morningstar, Elements, Demon Work going well.
    - Tony's class coming up in the fall, setting up details for a Warrior Pentacle class.
    - Breven will be the next liaison.
  - Research & Alumni Pillar (Katie)
    - Louise handled cords for ritual, Tony's post is live on the blog.
  - Temple & Tech Pillar (Sandra)
    - We took July off. Status quo, no real update on the wiki.
  - Retreat Committee - skip
  - IRS/Business Stuff (Sandra)
    - Annual fees coming up next month. Agent of service fees need to be paid next month. No major changes.
  - Registrar (Louise)
    - No updates.
  - Treasurer (John) – doing it by email these days.
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
  - Ealasaïd:
    - Research export function in Mediawiki – done.
  - Katie:
    - Email pillars for ritual planning volunteer - Done

- Laura: (not here)
  - Ping Saga - Done
  - Will email Louise and John about registrar stuff. - Done
  - Fee calendar (with John)
  - Figure out morningstar.org's vanishing - Done
- Louise:
  - Post Cords post once ritual is squared away - Done
- Sandra:
  - Ping Sarah – Done, no response yet.
  - Ping Kevin – Done, no response yet.
  - Write brief intro post for Kevin to coincide with sending him the login (waiting to hear back from him)
  - Bylaws amendments
  - Putting accounting stuff together for The D&O Insurance
  - Agenda for Annual Meeting - Done
- SPECIAL MEETING: What We've Accomplished
  - What have we accomplished since last summer?
    - Sandra: we've come a really long way. Last summer we were just offering Thorn's classes, but now most of the classes are post-Thorn, coming from the school. We're staying true to the core, to the heart of Morningstar and the mission of Morningstar. We're doing more magic again, we'd gotten away from that. Could really feel the difference at the Solstice ritual. We're slowly coming into our own.
    - Louise: the school's been revitalized with the new classes. Exciting! Enjoying the Gods of Feri class. In January we talked a bunch about the Guardians getting a class, and now we're doing it!
    - Ealasaid: we made it through the craziness of the last two years. We accomplished a lot with an all-volunteer board while each of us have been dealing with everything. Morningstar has been a rock for me to hang onto so I'm not swept away rather than one more thing on the to do list.
    - Kate: pretty sure will make it through the curriculum without the school imploding. Feels listened to by teaching pillar, they've been great about taking feedback and really thinking about what they're putting out. Also: us as a board, we've moved from "we gotta get this done" to like, thinking more strategically and thinking forward. Makes the meetings easier. Not feeling panicky like at the beginning.
    - Sandra: we're at a place where we aren't focused on survival, we're looking at growth, at where we want to go, what we want to become. Pivot in maturity as an organization.
  - What could we have done better?
    - Sandra: Lots of places where we could improve. Finding self hesitating at the question, because we did our best. But there are places that need improvement.

We haven't fallen down on the job but we've tripped a few times. Our social media presence and approach to the outside has a lot of development that needs to happen. Had a lot of attrition in the Elements class, which isn't unexpected but shows a challenge that we need to find solutions for, we need innovative ways to keep engagement. Teaching pillar is looking at that, but it's not solely their responsibility, we need to look at this as a school. In order to survive we have to have new students. How do we attract and keep new students, new members? How to bring Elements more into the school. If we're going to rely on that to get new members, then it needs to be more in the school. It has to be a part of the school.

- Louise: would it be good to have a conversation about elements during an all-school chat?
- Sandra: might be. We'd have to be really careful about it because it can become a very emotional thing. For people who did apprenticeships, it was a life changing, difficult, major commitment. Hard to let go of the idea that Morningstar is the place that Elements brought us to. To say, no, people can come here without having to go over that mountain can be hard to swallow. Our paradigm has shifted dramatically, and where Morningstar under Thorn was another extension of her teaching, it doesn't work in the same way anymore. The sharp attrition of the elements class is an indication that we need to do something. We need to support the students and teachers as an organization.
- Katie: will be hard to bring Elements into the school under the modular system we're developing, because people will be coming and going. Don't have to throw people into monthly checkins or whatever, but could have something like happy hour, available mentoring, like office hours.
- Sandra: mentoring is something she thinks about, informal one on one teaching could be attractive on both sides. What if we included Elements students in some rituals? Not the ritual of connection, but if we did rituals on the cross quarters or something? Including them in a ritual capacity so they can join a ritual that's not open to the public but isn't as intimate as if it were Morningstar only.
- Louise: likes idea of mentoring, we could bring it up at an all school chat and see if they'd be interested. Just bringing up ideas.
- Sandra: also need to think about what resources we can provide so it's done easily and not intrusively. Giving people flexibility. We can look at ways to make it easier.
- Louise: during elements, Thorn did a 1:1 once per quarter with each student. Only did one round, but that was something that was done and was cool.
- Sandra: mentoring can be a lot less formal and a lot more practical. In the legal profession, mentors give mentees tips, help them strategize/problem solve, etc.
- Louise: might be something that would appeal to folks who haven't been as active.

- Sandra: not everyone wants to teach a class but that doesn't mean they have nothing to share or can't help someone in their development. The school can also help support members' development in various ways.
- Louise: when she wrapped elements, Ealasaid posted offering help and Louise took them up on it, got some help around navigating the forum. That could be a good way to integrate new people.
- Katie: Laura assigned herself to me when I joined. When does Elements end? If some from there join the school, when would that be?
- Ealasaid: checked forum, looks like they're starting Below, so a bit longer.
- Katie: some interest in having Elements student(s) join the Guardian class? Not sure if it's open.
- Sandra: can be good to have some time to integrate first. Also in theory the guardians are part of elements, so it'd be diving back into work they've already done. Would need to look at how they'd overlap.
- Sandra: still want to take a look at our mission statement and rephrase so it's more understandable from the outside. We get tangled in details and trying to prevent things rather than being confident that we can handle it when things come up. We can't protect everybody's feelings.
- Louise: Should we make some of these action items for future board meetings?
- Sandra: yeah. We need to decide what we want to work on, and then who should work on it. Something like the mission statement, I think we as a board have our input but we'd need to send it to the pillars for their input, and then integrate their feedback and present to the school as a whole. Wants us to find a way to pull ourselves out of the weeds.
- Where are we spending tuition money, and what are students getting from it? (aka what are students getting for their dues?)
  - Ealasaid: brought up financial report for 2019-20, looks like retreat didn't pay for itself the way it was supposed to.
  - Sandra: reimbursements and expenses may not be all in the timespan of that report. Will follow up.
  - Louise: Scholarships for attending retreats? Maybe beyond the scope of today?
  - Sandra: We can't give money to people. If it appears we have a consistent amount of overage, the school could be funding a portion of retreats? Could fund the facility expenses so people only pay transportation and food costs. We've talked a lot in the past about paying teachers, hesitant to even go down that road because we have to be super careful to not create employees of the school. OTOH, it might be something we could look at if we want to partner with a teacher who usually gets paid for their work who might bring in more students.
- It's a looking back at the year meeting; let's look at the goal of having annual all-school meeting in March and the steps working backward to make that happen. Budget report, election stuff, et al.

- Sandra: Can someone look at a calendar and propose dates? We can discuss but need a starting point.
- Katie: Will look at dates.
- We can follow up next month.
- Sandra: Things we wish we could've done but didn't?
  - Retreat
- Action Items
  - Katie:
    - Look at dates for everything leading up to March all-school chat
  - Laura: (not here)
    - Fee calendar (with John)
  - Sandra:
    - Write brief intro post for Kevin to coincide with sending him the login (waiting to hear back from him)
    - Bylaws amendments
    - Putting accounting stuff together for The D&O Insurance
- Confirm next month's call – Saturday 8/14/21, 10am Pacific
- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer.

Adjourned at: 11:30am