

# Morningstar Mystery School Board of Directors January 2023 Meeting Minutes

1/14/23

Present: Jenn, Laura, Louise, Sandra, Ealasaid

Facilitator: Jenn (basics) & Sandra (special meeting)

Called to order at 10:09am

- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer
- Brief checkin
- Approve minutes from previous meeting - approved
- Pillar and other standing reports
  - Teaching & Curriculum Pillar (Cedar)
    - Didn't meet in December
    - Self-Possession has started
    - Talking about having a standalone Elements class, request for ideas for classes.
    - Haven't gotten the evaluations out and back as planned.
    - Not a whole lot going on.
      - Sandra: pillar has been doing a lot of heavy lifting the last couple years, good to pause a little and take a break.
    - Cedar dropped off
  - Research & Alumni Pillar (Jenn)
    - Registrar stuff feels kind of under R&A
    - Not much else to report.
  - Temple & Tech Pillar (Laura)
    - Meeting was going to be on New Years, oops! So did meeting by email.
    - Set up forum for Self-Possession eventually, there was some delay but everything is up and running now.
  - Retreat Committee (Laura)
    - Waiting on surveys. Will remind folks about it in January All-School Chat
  - IRS/Business Stuff (Sandra)
    - DocuSign went out, almost everybody signed. That's it.

- Taxes due in March, John is working on that. Concerned that we made money last year, but it was still a small enough amount that in the IRS's eyes we didn't make anything.
    - Sandra will send bylaws to the DOJ
    - Discussion around bringing in an interim board member to replace Louise.
      - Louise to step down after March meeting
      - Laura: let's talk about election next meeting and get a timeline. We were super late with last year's election. We'll need to look at the bylaws.
      - Sandra will check bylaws and report via email.
  - Registrar (Louise)
    - Jenn will be taking over for now while Louise deals with some things.
    - Emailed John about recording payments for last year. Laura offered to help with the spreadsheet. Haven't heard back yet but he's super busy.
  - Treasurer – via email
    - No update
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
  - Everyone
    - Review notes from July to prep for next meeting being the special winter solstice call
    - There will be a tarot pull or something, be ready
  - Laura
    - Ping Tony and post about skipping the December all-school chat - Done
  - Sandra
    - Sandra to draft agenda for Winter Solstice call – Done
    - Set up a DocuSign for bylaws in the next week – Done (late)
    - Putting accounting stuff together for The D&O Insurance - not yet
    - Cheat sheet of what we can/can't do with school money – not yet
- SPECIAL MEETING: Long-Term Planning
  - Unbinding break
  - Guided meditation
  - Divinations?
    - Louise: got a lot of major arcana.
      - What do we want to happen in the next year: the Wheel – change, movement.
      - What does the school need? Dedication.
      - What do we need from the school: the Woodward (similar to Strength), about having each other's backs and having good boundaries. Knowing where we and others begin and end. What we can commit to and what we can't.
      - What is the most important long-term goal: the Hooded Man (Hermit).
      - What is the most important short-term goal: The Wanderer (Fool). Maybe we need to go out and play a little! Something lighter.

- How do long term and short term intermesh? 4 of Vessels – boredom, stagnant energy. We need a way to break that up. Work in Self-Possession plus following the Wanderer, maybe that will help.
- Jenn
  - Similar to Louise. Lux message: to Dare, taking risk and tapping into creativity and joy, which we have as a group but haven't really been using/acknowledging the way that we need to right now. Stagnation. There's depth there, the depth is about that creativity, there being a sort of if you want to move forward, you have to take a risk. Doesn't have to put you in danger but might feel dangerous. Ties in with the Fool card – jump off the cliff, do the thing, don't be so concerned about fear/potential danger. Creativity is on our side. We have a lot of trickster gods on our side as well, that will help us along the way.
- Laura
  - Four cards, diamond shape.
  - Where are we now, short/long term goals, etc. Very intellectual/heady themes.
  - Short term goal: chariot, using the tools, the mastery of balance.
  - Long term goal: six of rods reversed, can be about deception but is about you're not going to reach your goal, you're deceiving yourself. So maybe don't worry about long term / short term goals. Idea of revisiting the four fires and rekindling our passion. If we can rekindle those who are less engaged and offer space to be more daring for the rest.
- Ealasaid
  - What do we need to know as we look to the year ahead?
  - Where we are: singer of intuition reversed – need to listen to intuition
  - Where we're going : green woman reversed. Gotta remember to play!
  - Allies: Iris of the Rainbow and The Dark Lady – the twins! We have allies, we gotta remember that.
- Sandra
  - What do we need to know? 3 card draw: Princess of Discs, 2 of wands/Dominion, knight of cups
  - Mining depths of creativity, openness to new beginnings. Dominion: needing to come into one's own, taking charge, commitment. Knight of Cups is about mastery of self and emotion/passion
  - During morning practice realized have been forgetting the school's goal is to help us, help all of the students gain connection with their own god souls and bring forth our own light and life. That's the goal. The goal is not "to make the school better". Easy to forget that and get caught up in we need to grow, we need to sustain, etc etc. It's about helping each student gain self-possession, whatever that looks like for that student, not to create an army of spiritual warriors or to make us all-powerful witches. All of those things may happen, or

none of them. The point is to be there for the students – and we are all the students! Whether the school survives for another 5-10 years or well past that, we gotta remember the goal. The goal doesn't change. The goal of the school is not the popularity of the school or the perseverance of the school. The cards reinforced that. It's all through connection, allowing what is to grow and through self-mastery and taking ownership of our mastery.

- Sandra: a lot of our readings had major arcana, shall we trace the threads?
  - Laura the decks are all so different and about our relationship with them, maybe better to look at threads in our interpretations.
  - Sandra: yeah. Themes?
  - Louise: lighten up, take some risks, creativity. Engaging the imagination, a lot of cups cards, wands. Stagnant energy needing to be broken up.
  - Sandra: theme of taking risks, creativity. Bringing things into being. What does that look like? New classes? Fits with some of what's going on right now. More of an external look, doing more one-off classes.
  - Laura: curious about tarot is a tool we share with others but we also interpret things differently. There's been work around Breven doing a lot of teaching, Tony doing a lot, etc. Maybe we should look at less engaged members? What might risk look like there? Some people are taking risks and some aren't, what does the end of their stagnation look like? What does risk look like for them?
  - Sandra: Makes sense. Risking has been a part of our theology from the beginning. That's a big part of Thorn's teachings around being seen, allowing ourselves to be bigger and visible. That's quintessential risk. That willingness to put yourself out there. A great thing to explore, something to explore more as a school. At the end of the Self-Possession class everyone in the school will have gone through the whole curriculum. We need to figure out what comes next for everyone. The first step there is exploring that. How do we as a school come together and dare, and that has to be each of us individually exploring our own willingness to dare, to be seen, to take our place in the larger world, to be our right size. Making commitments is an act of daring as well – either irresponsibility or daring. Either you're being brave or you're being stupid. It's all about commitment. That could be a really interesting arc to explore in the all-school chats, an arc around risk and daring.
  - Louise: was just thinking, the all-school chats, that's a container we already have and we're already doing explorations that way, maybe a good way to enter the next arc is to look at our relationship with the four fires and start talking about risks. Some people really like doing homework, things to share, maybe give assignments to do before the chat.
  - Jenn: likes bringing topic to whole school in the chat. What re-responding to most is creativity part of it, a lot of our initial readings said not to focus on the long-term. Something around getting our wisdom from non-intellectual

sources, whether wisdom from body, from making art, nonverbal stuff, doing that, because we all tend to get up in our minds right away, get prescriptive right away. This thing we're working with feels not that. Something to move body around, paint around, would love to incorporate something like that in chats. Another thing that came up – individual work and community work is iron and pearl stuff. Risk is Iron, how does that expand out into Pearl in an aligned way. It's not about getting more people in the school or selling us as whatever. What does that mean for us to do Pearl work as a group, what does that look like? That's what's coming up for me.

- Sandra: likes that Jenn brought up that need to not be completely in our heads, a lot of the tools that we used in our early training (many of us) are not accessible via Zoom because of the time delays, you can't really do singing or chanting or drums, because of the time delays. We're limited to etheric meditations or yakking at each other.
- Laura: is it that we're limited, or that we're not thinking about ways to weave in more corporeal stuff.
- Sandra: difference between “go do this thing and we'll talk about it” and “we're in a room and doing this nonverbal thing together.” We're really limited in what we can do via Zoom. Maybe there is a way to do it but I have yet to see it. While am a big believer in “take a break and do this thing and we'll talk”, it has its own value for exploring within yourself, nonverbal communication withing own souls, it's not the same thing as if we're across a circle from each other and doing the Iron dance, that shared energy.
- Laura: is the point of daring, being the fool, jumping off the cliff, keeping that sense of play, trying different things to see what work. Treating it as a riddle to play with rather than a problem to solve. How can we explore nonintellectual communication? Maybe fingerpaints? Finding ways to bring a sense of play and try different things. Opening things up that way might respect individual experiences and limitations of Zoom but could bring a sense of play and adventure and include the depth.
- Sandra: what trying to express is we have these modalities that we've traditionally used and we know they don't work over Zoom. Especially since we're not able to do retreats yet, without those modalities, hwo do we incorporate nonverbal side/connection, how do we do that? Don't know. Has 20 years of training in methods that don't work via zoom. No matter what we try it's very easy to end up in our heads because of the nature of electronic communication, it requires the use of our intellect in ways face to face doesn't. Zoom is better than email but it's not in person.
- Louise: has tried with groups, chanting on zoom it sounds terrible. Cacophony! But an art project, that's something if you gather materials ahead of time, we could do that maybe, or use the chat time fingerpainting or something then

share it. That could work. Has done movement on Zoom. Sometimes hard to get, used drums in a Reiki group, but the drums fell off/went away. Sometimes YouTube chants, people can share those.

- Ealasaid: land line phones have less delay?
- Laura: but in a conference call it often puts one voice over everything else. We're still getting a bit prescriptive, trying to solve problem. But this is a question for the school, as we encourage people to try things, to lead a chat arc. We have the instinct to problem solve here, but if we get people to think about this and bring their ideas it could encourage engagement.
- Jenn: asking the whole school, what does feel like a risk, what does feel like daring these days? Fears around the school? What is stopping you from doing things? Would be interested to know.
- Sandra: this is really fruitful. Tying that in or coming from that around risk, are there goals that we want to be setting for the next year? What would we like to come out of an exploration of risk and daring? Deeper understanding?
- Laura: creating a space or container for us to as a school individually and collectively explore daring. A space for us to discuss. Thinking of the twins. It's not just risk, it's daring. Establishing a North Star, we need to have these conversations.
- Sandra: we don't need a multipoint plan to achieve whatever. Maybe we need to come to terms with risk and be willing to dare before we can really look ahead in a long-term sense. When thinking about what the school looks like in 5 years, don't know. What do I want it to look like? I don't know. Daring is one of personal themes for this year, so it makes sense, it works well for me to explore this.
- Louise: Coming out in a lot of cards, to dare. That feels good/strong.
- Sandra: Most important long term goal and most important short term goal are the same, coming to terms with risk/daring, allowing that element, that piece of wisdom of risk/daring, allowing that to expand us. Only then will we know, be able to have a long-term goal.
- Laura: we're near time, maybe we can talk about next arc by email. Tony has the death arc going right now, so we have time to figure out the next arc.
- Sandra: yes. Maybe at this point, we've talked about the other questions, what are we bringing back to the school, where do we go? Thinking if we have a few more minutes we can take a moment to reconnect with Lux and egregore, get any last communications, then come back to talk and wrap up? Yes.
- Meditation (Sandra)
  - Any last thoughts to share? There doesn't need to be anything
  - Louise: from Lux, engaging with life force energy when it comes to risk and daring. He was very encouraging, don't forget the charge you get from it.

- Laura: Overwhelming sense of gratitude for each of you showing up, got warm fuzzy vibes for self and also collectively. So glad we could do this work together.
    - Sandra: thanks to all for showing up and engaging, this is important for each of us individually but also the school as a whole. Maybe we should give more opportunities for the school at large to engage with this, how might we be able to do that?
  - Sandra: Should we have a post about this? Open the conversation to the school? Jenn.
- New Business
- Action Items
  - Everyone
    - Consider how we could explore a container for fear/daring as a school. Maybe talk via email or next meeting.
  - Ealasaid
    - send notes around.
  - Jenn
    - will make post
  - Laura
  - Sandra
    - Send bylaws to DOJ
    - Check bylaws for rules around the election
    - Putting accounting stuff together for The D&O Insurance
    - Cheat sheet of what we can/can't do with school money
- Confirm next month's call – February 11, 2023 10am Pacific Time
- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer.

Adjourned at: 11:45am