

Morningstar Mystery School

Board of Directors

August 2023 Meeting

Minutes

8/12/23

Present: Jenn, Laura, Sandra, Ealasaid

Facilitator: Jenn

Called to Order at 10:03am

- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer
- Brief checkin
- Approve minutes from previous meeting - unanimous
- Pillar and other standing reports
 - Teaching & Curriculum Pillar (Breven, via email)
 - The Self Possession class ended last month, which means that now, theoretically, every student in the Morningstar Mystery School has been through all the curriculum. A few notes on the curriculum of Self Possession has been made and I'm thinking about how to pass them to the future teachers of this class. Tony, who taught the last Self Possession class, left his own notes in the curriculum's folder for future teachers and it has been really helpful.
 - Tony and Laura officially announced the Elements class that they will co-teach beginning this Fall. A post with all the infos and the links to the introduction videos can be found on the forum to help them promote the class. Congratulations to the teachers for their work!
 - In the Teaching Pillar, Lyssa worked on a way to add structure to our meetings and our notes. We were all caught in a lot of things these past months but a proper Zoom meeting is scheduled for September.
 - Research & Alumni Pillar (Jenn)
 - Nothing to report. Did email Louise about meeting and talking about taking over the registrar position but haven't heard back yet.
 - Temple & Tech Pillar (Laura)
 - scheduled upcoming months in terms of newsletter, Lyssa to post about that soon.
 - Not getting much in terms of volunteers/engagement when asking for folks.

- Need for social media coverage.
 - Retreat Committee (Laura)
 - Nothing to report.
 - Went over the results of the survey in board meeting a bit ago, had too much going on.
 - IRS/Business Stuff (Sandra)
 - Nothing much to report. John paid annual fees, which are due this month. Will doublecheck that got done.
 - Registrar (not here)
 - Treasurer – via email
 - Sandra: he mentioned needing to spend time on this but hasn't yet.
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
 - Ealasaid
 - Look at plate, can hand something off to be soc media?
 - Can do low-key 1 or 2 posts a week tops.
 - Need to tie my Meta accounts to school account
 - Jenn
 - Check on someone to present at annual meeting – irrelevant now
 - Continue research re: scholarships – yep, got information to share.
 - Check in with Louise about registrar work – just did this today.
 - Sandra
 - Annual meeting post and email – Yup, annual meeting. Need to do election
 - Ealasaid: Don't have a full slate of board candidates yet
 - Sandra: Didn't Starr volunteer?
 - Ealasaid: Not as far as I know?
 - Sandra: will check email.
 - Looking at D&O Insurance – did a little work on this, very tiny amount.
- New Business
 - Post about talking with Thorn – board response?
 - Jenn: There was some response on the forum, but nothing else.
 - Sandra: had a strong enough reaction to need to sit with it.
 - Discussion, especially around money
 - Jenn: brought up the money thing, Thorn is still anchoring Lux and Jen wanted to offer something in exchange for that workbasket
 - Both expressed regret at how things went down around Thorn leaving
 - Thorn was teaching and talking about Lux, other contacted teachers were there with their contacts and students. What does it mean for us to be a mystery school without our contacted teacher?
 - Jenn wanted to initiate that convo because it's weird that Thorn and the school aren't in contact at all.
 - Lots of strong feelings around it all.

- Sandra: additional context is helpful The whole thing is hard – Thorn set the terms of the split and the school didn't really have any input. Never felt Thorn as being between us and Lux. More that Lux and Thorn have a very unique and close relationship and created the school together. Thorn didn't want to stay with the school but Lux did. Thorn cut themselves off from the school.
- Ealasaid: still lots of feelings around Thorn leaving, thought had dealt with it all but apparently not. Feelings hurt Thorn bailed and now is teaching again
- More discussion – lots of feelings around it all.
- Laura: feels like this contact can draw us back, it's reopening the wound. Need to take a lot of care around this.
- Sandra: we each have our individual relationship with Thorn, it's different for each of us. The school also has its relationship to Thorn and that's not unique but we all experience it differently. This is showing us that the wound hasn't necessarily healed – but maybe it has and it's my wound not the school's.
- Laura: Scar tissue takes a long time and is tender/painful and awkward.
- Sandra: a spoken conversation is really different from a written one. While only a few people have responded on the forum, that's way more response than most posts on there get. We could mention it at the next all-school chat and see if people want to talk about it.
- Laura: who will facilitate? How will that work? Don't want to show up to everybody talking about their feelings about Thorn.
- Sandra: interested in talking about how the school relates to Thorn, how what we teach relates to Thorn. An intellectual property kind of discussion, how does our work relate to Thorn's work, etc. Not looking at feelings or relationship to Thorn but what is our relationship to Thorn and to Lux as a school. Do we identify as a contacted school?
- Discussion
- How to set the conversation up so it's not just everybody in their feelings
- Jenn: talking with Teaching about what we teach that's ours and what we teach that's Thorn's is a good idea.
- Sandra: the pillar should take the lead on that, but the actual teachers should be the ones with the loudest voice
- Laura: maybe teachers can facilitate a larger discussion?
- Sandra: concern that the teaching pillar is overworked, we would need to support them in this, not sure how best to do that.
- Laura: could email pillar from board asking about that
- Sandra: worried they'll take it on even if they don't have bandwidth
- Discussion
- Laura: the contacted school conversation could be a really rich arc. How do we all relate to Lux? How does that affect the school? How do we want to move forward?

- Jenn: the lack of engagement with the Temple is connected here, the Temple is connected to Lux and there's a lot of ambivalence
 - Ealasaid: I at least am not always sure I make it to the temple. Poor astral skills, not willing to open/close the temple cos I'm not sure I always get there.
 - Sandra: brought it up with Anaar, who said we're trying to do the hardest kind of astral work without working up to it.
 - Next steps? Sandra and Laura partner up
 - Aeptha is doing a workshop on contacts! Jenn will post about it
- Jenn's research about what we can do with our money
 - Talked to a bunch of folks who know about it, did online research.
 - For spending, cleanest way is to make sure any Money spent is in line with our mission - we should look at our mission and make sure it's what we want.
 - Scholarships could be through a form and would need to say how the money is spent and how would benefit the school and the mission.
 - Teachers, promoting the school, gatherings for religious celebrations are all cool as long as they're in line with mission
 - expenses/reimbursements possible but the easiest way is to have the school purchase things directly (avoids lost receipts, etc). Event tickets, space rental, transportation.
 - Anybody paid over \$600/year needs to get a 1099. If we keep it under \$600/yr we don't have to do that paperwork.
 - It's a lot easier than we've been thinking. We need to look at our mission and see how money spending lines up with that. Jenn can come up with a form for requesting money with all the right questions. Then form would go to board for approval.
 - Sandra: who makes the decision that something is in line with our mission? The board for expenditures. Do we want the board in charge of deciding scholarships?
 - Laura: to get things started, yes. The board has oversight of the budget. Would encourage people to submit early enough for board to look at it. Eventually we'd want to look at changing the process if it gets to be too much but for now the board could do it. Maybe we could present this to the school and see what people think. The board at her large nonprofit approves everything expense-wise.
 - Sandra: should we make a decision around what percentage we will commit to grants/scholarships so it's clear. We need to be very accountable to the school around how much is available and how we sort out who gets it.
 - Jenn: we'd put budget line items in about this stuff. Paying teachers? Paying for marketing? We'd need to look at the budget. But basically we can do it.
 - Sandra: yep, just need to be ready to back it up. Need to be able to explain to the IRS why the expenses are okay.

- Discussion around what kinds of expenses/scholarships people have asked for. Transportation to religious celebrations is okay, so we could help people get to retreats.
 - Concerns around IRS wanting proof/evidence. As a fringe religious group we could wind up in the cross-hairs. Discussion about how best to address these concerns.
 - Jenn: will get together request sheet and we all think about budget line items, what kind of money goes into which pots if we decide to do things that way. Discuss more next month.
- Action Items
 - Everybody:
 - Think about the scholarship thing and what our concerns are.
 - Look at and think about our mission statement
 - Sandra:
 - Check with John about annual fees
 - D&O Insurance
 - Basic budget - monthly and annual surplus, etc. How much we have to work with.
 - Ealasaid:
 - Connect social media accounts
 - Laura:
 - reach out to Doneby to circle back
 - text Sandra about cooperation with school chats
 - Look at org documents for budget stuff, recommended surplus etc.,
 - Find google doc about mission statement work
 - Jenn:
 - post about Aeptha's workshop about contacts
 - meet with Louise re: registrar stuff
 - scholarship/spending request form
- Confirm next month's call – September 9, 10am
- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer.

Adjourned at