

Morningstar Mystery School Board of Directors November 2023 Meeting Minutes

11/11/23

Present: Jenn, Laura, Sandra, Ealasaid

Facilitator: Jenn

Called to Order at 10:00am

- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer
- Invite Lux
- Brief checkin
- Approve minutes from previous meeting - approved
- Pillar and other standing reports
 - Teaching & Curriculum Pillar (email from Breven)
 - The only current class is Elements, taught by Tony and Laura. In October, Tony reported that the class had a good start and good engagement. One person had officially withdrawn.
 - We identified and transmitted the list of the inactive forums that could be deleted to the Temple and Tech Pillar. As a reminder, the class forums will now be deleted after six months of inactivity.
 - The next Teaching Pillar meeting will take place at the beginning of December and I'll make sure to make a list of liaisons for the next Board meetings.
 - Research & Alumni Pillar (Jenn)
 - No update.
 - Retreat Committee (Jenn)
 - Tony responded to call for volunteers but that's it.
 - Laura: maybe a second call and say what the tasks are?
 - Jenn: sort of already did that in the first post, but maybe too soft?
 - E: you have to be aggressive!
 - Sandra: call at the next chat?
 - Laura: maybe move forward with two but post calls for ideas, calls for specific tasks that need doing, etc.
 - Registrar (Jenn)

- Hasn't been able to meet up with Louise, going to do over email.
 - Temple & Tech Pillar (Laura)
 - Laura: quick but impactful meeting, have next arc of chats planned, looking at the new moon schedule for next year. Talked about timeline for newsletter. Lyssa talked about needing content, she posts a call to the school for content. The newsletter is a way for folks who aren't as active on the forums to engage. Would be really good if pillars and the board could put blurbs together. Lyssa needs content!
 - IRS/Business Stuff (Sandra)
 - Fiscal year ended as usual, quietly and without needing anything. Timeline for taxes has started, John is getting started on generating the income/expenses report. Put together a draft budget. John is gathering financial reports going more than a couple years back to make sure but everything is really consistent, we have a surplus every year and it's grown recently. Gives us some ideas around what we have to spend. Would be good to put some of the money we've saved (low five figures) into a savings account. Can also look at taking a portion of annual surplus and putting it into savings. Having something to rely on if we need it is a good idea.
 - E: we might want to get a high yield savings account, interest rates are good. We should consider maybe? But then also, having both accounts in one place keeps things simple.
 - Sandra: We aren't saving for retirement and don't really need to build wealth, it's just good to have a safety net. Annual expenses are less than \$1000, if we stopped taking dues we could continue running for several years. But we might want to consider expenditures as far as promotional expenses. Do we want to budget some non-essential activities, and if so what? Scholarships, but what else? We take in about \$3k/year and are spending less than \$1k, could easily budget \$500 or something.
 - Jenn: We could talk about paying teachers, at least for outside classes?
 - Sandra: doesn't want to create an employment situation. There are ways around that, just don't want to get on the hook for employment taxes
 - Jenn: if it's under \$600/yr you don't have to issue a 1099 or anything.
 - Treasurer – via email
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
 - Ealasaid
 - Connect social media accounts – not yet
 - Post re: rescheduling November and December all-school chats - done
 - Jenn
 - Meet with Louise re: registrar stuff – mentioned above
 - Laura

- Look at org documents for budget stuff, recommended surplus etc. - realized she doesn't have the connections at work to focus on it.
 - Post proposed mission statement update to forum for feedback – not yet
 - We have an idea for the next chat arc that kind of preempts this discussion
 - Sandra: things are moving slowly, no problem delaying. Maybe we should let folks know and ask them to start thinking about it?
 - Sandra
 - D&O Insurance
 - looking at what all we need, this may well eat up a big chunk of our annual surplus.
 - Basic budget - monthly and annual surplus, etc. - sent draft, working (see above)
- New Business
- Action Items
 - Ealasaid
 - Scan paperwork
 - Connect social media accounts
 - Jenn
 - Connect with Louise about registrar materials.
 - Laura
 - Post about the mission statement to forum
 - Sandra
 - D&O Insurance
 - Complete budget history
 - Follow up on paying teachers – look at ideas around a reasonable payment
- Confirm next month's call – December 9, 2023 10am Pacific
- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together, thanking Lux, and reciting the Holy Mother prayer.

Adjourned at 10:35am!