

Morningstar Mystery School

Board of Directors

December 2024 Meeting

Minutes

December 14, 2024

Present: Doneby, Ealasaïd, Jenn, Laura, Sandra

Facilitator: Laura

Called to Order at 10:07am

- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer, inviting Lux
- Brief check in
- Approve minutes from previous meeting
 - Folks didn't read them, but want to blanket-approve anyway. Approved.
- Pillar and other standing reports
 - Teaching & Curriculum Pillar (Breven)
 - Right now there isn't a meeting schedule for next year. This year most discussions were through email but will probably meet once a quarter. Will come back to Temple & Tech with a schedule
 - Elements teachers raised some concerns
 - Gap between people leaving a class and their payments stopping
 - Want to work on communication with treasurer and teachers and pillar
 - Deciding when a student isn't enrolled – if they haven't engaged for a quarter and haven't checked in with teacher that would mean they're not enrolled. Haven't discussed as a pillar but will do so this week
 - Forum may not be best approach for classes and discussion, a few suggestions there to try – 1:1 mentorship, asynchronous teaching with videos, email list. Will dig into that with the pillar.
 - Research & Alumni Pillar (Jenn)
 - At the retreat had the epiphany that the pillar title needs "community" in it somewhere
 - Laura: anything we can do to support you?
 - Jenn: not really! We're all on a ton of pillars, but would be nice to have someone to bounce ideas off
 - Laura: can always text me!

- Temple & Tech Pillar (Laura)
 - Things are running well. Looking at year ahead, thinking about moving from monthly to every other month. Want to coordinate with the teaching pillar. Will revisit this in our January meeting and follow up with Teaching.
 - Talking about retreat stuff into knowledge base
 - Jenn: retreat comms didn't talk about it but did have a survey about how folks felt about the retreat. Would be great to have records
- Retreat Committee (Jenn)
 - Survey (as mentioned) 4 people responded. Got some good feedback. Came up with questions with Tony. There was stuff they didn't talk about before the retreat and put that in the questionnaire
 - Wants to make a list of what it takes to put a retreat on and put it in the KB
 - Laura: did we used to start planning the next retreat right away?
 - Ealasaid: we only had a couple after Thorn left so we didn't set a pattern.
 - Laura: maybe do a survey about timing for the next retreat?
 - Doneby: a few of us had some thought that it would be good to do the next retreat close to Nancy so she can come – and there are times of the year where you don't want to be in Missouri! Would be something to factor in when we are thinking about timing.
 - Laura: can look to see where the nearest airport is to her, can reach out to her.
- IRS/Business Stuff (Sandra)
 - Has been in touch with the insurance agency.
 - Our agent offers a service where they can be the address for us. Fee per month.
 - Ealasaid: I get almost no mail, I don't think it's worth the school paying so I don't have to do it
 - Laura: but it might be nice not to have E's home address on documentation for the school. There's a benefit, but we should find out how it all works, how mail gets forwarded, etc.
 - Sandra: All of our names and addresses are on file with the Oregon DOJ, so with the upcoming administration that's something to keep in mind
 - Laura: Do need to update address, moved recently
 - Discussion around having addresses published, having a list of members.
- Registrar (Jenn)
 - Hasn't dug into that recently
- Treasurer – via email
 - Nothing by email.
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
 - Doneby
 - Check whether we can base our conflict resolution prep on church's scaffolding
 - Did this! No pushback on sharing it. Scrubbed the doc to remove Church vocab, sent draft to E. It's several pages, discusses how to address conflict.

Two buckets of conflicts: interpersonal and destructive behavior. Parallel ways of dealing with them. Sets out a pathway/protocol. First do this, then do that, etc. Response team so if things get hairy there are people who are supposed to get involved. Church hasn't used it and doesn't have a response team. There's supposed to be training for the team, but that hasn't happened. But this gives us a jumping off point.

- Laura: if we turn it into a google doc we can mark it up with comments.
- E to make google doc and share

○ Ealasaid

- Find and activate debit card for retreat - yes
- Knowledge base is linking to the wrong bylaws - need to link to the Organizational Resolutions (Amended Bylaws) in Google Drive – Done
- Fill out and send in claim form – not yet.

○ Jenn

- Meet w/John and determine who has paid/not paid dues – not yet
- Follow up with John re: unclear money in/out – not yet

○ Laura

- Make a list of topics we need to go over – done and emailed but we haven't discussed.

○ Sandra

- Research what we need to do around teaching kids

● New Business

○ Is there a newsletter coming up? (they go out on Equinoxes and Solstices) If so, let's send them an update.

- Lyssa has been sick, so no.

○ Jenn: Frequency of meetings

- We talked about this at the retreat a bit (not sure with whom), maybe the board meet every other month. We have a small number of people who are in a bunch of meetings.
- Sandra and Laura both dig it.
- Laura would like to check with T&T to figure out scheduling. Can we limit the meetings to stuff where we need to discuss, the rest of this could be done by email.
- Discussing which months are good.
- OK, so board will skip January, meet in Feb and then every other month
- E to update calendar and zoom
- Ealasaid: concern about whether we actually get things done over email.
- Laura: we could put due dates for items in the notes. On the off months, could be a due date so share and update. Like, E could email to remind us of things that are due instead of us having the meeting
- Sandra: would like us to set a date where we reflect on the impact of the change

- Laura: maybe in June?
 - Assent
 - Laura: will probably keep time marked out on the months we skip to get things done
 - Jenn: this is the smart way to go. Hopes that we will have space to do more magic and group chats together and not burn ourselves out on admin stuff as much
- Next time is a SPECIAL MEETING: Long-Term Planning – the meeting immediately after Winter Solstice
 - What do we want to do over the next couple of years?
 - We can do this in February meeting
- Action Items
 - Everybody
 - Look over conflict resolution policy once Ealasaid sets it up
 - Doneby
 - Nothing!
 - Ealasaid
 - (T&T) Follow up w/Jenn for retreat stuff to put in KB
 - Make Google doc of conflict resolution policy
 - Ealasaid: update calendar and zoom
 - Reminder to pillars to email board with update
 - Jenn
 - Meet w/John and determine who has paid/not paid dues
 - Follow up with John re: unclear money in/out
 - Laura
 - Coordinate w/Jenn on next retreat timing survey
 - Resend list of topics so we can divvy them up by meeting
 - Reach out to T&T and Teaching about adjusted schedule for board meetings. They can email status updates rather than come to meetings
 - Post to forum about new board schedule
 - Sandra
 - Laura has moved, need to update address w/Oregon DOJ
 - Research what we need to do around teaching kids
- Confirm next call – 2/8/25 10am Pacific
- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together, thanking Lux, and reciting the Holy Mother prayer.

Adjourned at