

Morningstar Mystery School Board of Directors February 2025 Meeting Minutes

2/8/25

Present: Doneby, Ealasaïd, Jenn, Laura, Sandra

Facilitator: Sandra

Called to Order at 10:08 AM

- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer, inviting Lux
- Brief check in
 - The political situation is rough for all of us
- Approve minutes from previous meeting
 - Sandra has a few corrections for IRS/Biz stuff, will send corrected text to Ealasaïd
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
 - Everybody
 - Look over conflict resolution policy once Ealasaïd sets it up
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S4Eexy6lRC66bCZ56FDfCrQ4iFoIInBa/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109533260152315812582&rtpof=true&sd=true>
 - Folks have looked at it a bit but not totally.
 - Laura: loves that we're doing this every other month but worried that we are going to lose momentum.
 - [discussion]
 - We will discuss this in comments in the doc.
 - Doneby
 - Nothing! Done :)
 - Ealasaïd
 - Make Google doc of conflict resolution policy - done
 - Update calendar and Zoom - done
 - Reminder to pillars to email board with update - done
 - Jenn
 - Meet w/John and determine who has paid/not paid dues – not yet. Emailing today to set up a call
 - Follow up with John re: unclear money in/out - same

○ Laura

- Coordinate w/Jenn on next retreat timing survey – done
 - Laura recommends doing collabs over brunch :)
- 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 - done
- Post to forum about new board schedule - done

○ Sandra

- Laura has moved, need to update address w/Oregon DOJ – not yet, update will go in annual report next month
- Research what we need to do around teaching kids – did some, could easily spend hours and hours and then we'd still need to talk to a lawyer and they'd have to do hours and hours of research.
 - Yes we can teach kids but we need to be super careful about anything with potentially sexual content. It's unclear about parental consent rules. Also teaching kids opens us up to a whole new host of potential lawsuits.
 - Talked w/John and remembered Thorn let a pair of seventeen year olds into the two-year it was after a bunch of discussion with them and parents, was very exceptional and took a bunch of work.
 - There's no easy answer, basically. Also there may be insurance implications for things like retreats, we might need background checks. There's the legal side and then also the insurance side.
 - Laura: so like, if we did a small, focused class like Crafting a Daily Practice, we could decide if we want to offer it to people of all ages. Maybe later we'd need to address a retreat. Led ritual in an occult store, kids could attend but had to meet with parents. If we want to pursue this we can do so in a small and steady way.
 - Jenn: reaching out to UUs might be good. Starr taught kids stuff in UUs and they have a great sex-ed thing. They have a very established way to work with people under 18, we could get ideas from them.
 - Sandra: reminder that we aren't a church, the setting is different.
 - Laura: can reach out to friend who's organizing with local schools, they might have good info.
 - Sandra: read up on GSAs – but those are student led, which really changes the rules. There are two questions: what do we want to do? And also, what is the policy we want to make? As a board, our job is to create the policy. It would be up to Teaching & Curriculum to decide what they want to offer.
 - [discussion]
 - Jenn: when we've offered classes publicly before, did we say anything about age? (general answer: no) So we probably need to.
 - Sandra: Do we want to set up a policy? Sandra can draft and send it to us.

- SPECIAL MEETING: Long-Term Planning - What do we want to do over the next couple of years?
 - Ealasaid: did a little divining
 - Indi reversed – think about decisions VERY carefully then once you decide, stick to it.
 - The Topsie Turvets and the Master Maker – looking at things from every angle, and doing your very best then making it even better.
 - Sandra: thought about it a bunch, in particular our structure
 - Jenn has said “community” belongs in the Research & Alumni pillar.
 - Proposal: restructure the pillars
 - Research & Alumni becomes Community & Alumni
 - Teaching & Curriculum becomes Research & Teaching
 - We’re not just interested in teaching Thorn’s work. The way that we have new things is through that research arm.
 - Jenn: thinks the original idea was that the research part was folks doing work outside of our curriculum and they needed a mentor, they could look to people in the community, alumni. Likes what Sandra is saying. We’re so small that we don’t have to make things super formalized. The research part is about connecting people with resources
 - Sandra: wants our container to reflect reality. The dissonance right now makes the container weaker. R&A doesn’t have traction because it’s the wrong container. Also, we need to be looking at external classes if we’re going to survive as an organization.
 - Laura: can you go into further detail about that? Is this the Board asking the pillar to encourage classes? Is it board members should think about it?
 - Sandra: as a board, we can do things like, is there an advertising budget? What rules about advertising do we want to make? Who can / cannot teach publicly and what can/cannot be taught to the public under our auspices? We can ask the pillar what support they’d need to encourage classes available to the public that may feed into membership in the school? Back in the day we thought classes around soul alignment and the triple soul were pretty innocuous and could be presented to the public without concern. Getting into Iron Pentacle you have things get a little more complicated
 - Laura: loves idea of reaching out to the teaching pillar. Classes that would pique people’s interest would be good. As part of the mission of the school (we do need to revisit that), what is needed in the world right now? Wants to teach a workshop on disability/chronic illness and magic. What kinds of tech can we teach that are helpful if people just take that. We’re always in unprecedented times – let’s look around the community and ask what we can share. Even just a weekly meditation thing. This is a convo to have with the teaching pillar and with the community as a whole, what is our work?

- Doneby: taught a Crafting a Daily Practice a bit ago, didn't present it as part of Morningstar. When we say "community" what do we mean? Just the school? The community around the school? The community around each member? Encouraging people/helping them figure out how to do that is a form of service.
 - Laura: loves this. Curious about whether D would want to advertise it as under the Morningstar auspices. Thoughts about in-person vs online classes. What wants to see this coming year is things getting done! Things happening!
 - Sandra: we need to discuss policy stuff around kids. there's also a discussion to have around social media
 - Laura: for the kids thing, as a board, we could lay out a framework and then talk w/the teaching pillar about it. Our social media presence affects advertising, how visible do we want to be on Meta, etc.
 - Sandra: we could have an advertising budget that can be accessed by the pillar/by teachers, if they come to the board and request it.
 - Doneby: so long-term planning. We're thinking about the curriculum we inherited and what we added to it. And what does it look like now. Also there's the issue of who our classes are for. Internal (us) but also external (the public and whomever that might be). Renaming/restructuring makes sense. Don't know if people will like it but it makes sense to me.
 - Jenn: the biggest hurdle right now for long term planning is looking at the mission statement and redoing it as a school. That will tap into what we really want out of the school and what are everybody's desires around that? Where is the energy? For outside classes, who has the passion to do that? Wants to support them but who are they? Those are the things to investigate.
 - Laura: cosigns. Hesitates to direct people to the site because the mission statement is gobbledygook. Can we look it over in a google doc, then talk it out in our next meeting?
 - General assent.
 - Sandra: we should take some time with it individually and make some comments so we can have a discussion outside the meeting.
 - Laura: will share a doc for review.
- New Business
 - Is there a newsletter coming up? (they go out on Equinoxes and Solstices) If so, let's send them an update.
- Action Items
 - Everybody
 - Look at conflict resolution doc and comment
 - Look at the mission statement doc and comment
 - Jenn

- Meet w/John and determine who has paid/not paid dues – not yet. Emailing today to set up a call
- Follow up with John re: unclear money in/out - same
- Laura
 - Talk to friend re working with kids
 - Google doc for mission statement
 - Update topics document and include next meeting we will dive into mission statement
- Sandra
 - Minutes correction to Ealasaid, cc board
 - Draft policy around age and teaching
- Confirm next month's call – April 12, 10am Pacific
- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together, thanking Lux, and reciting the Holy Mother prayer.

Adjourned at 11:25 am