

Morningstar Mystery School Board of Directors December 2025 Meeting Minutes

12/13/25

Present: Doneby, Ealasaïd, Jenn, John, Laura, Sandra

Facilitator: Jenn

Called to Order at 10:09am Pacific

- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer, inviting Lux
- Brief check in
- Approve minutes from previous meeting - approved
 - Ealasaïd to upload minutes
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
 - Cedar
 - Event braindump document, send around
 - Ealasaïd
 - Meet up with Laura to discuss standard voting procedure for board election – done! Need to circle back. Laura will ping E with next steps
 - Announcement at Oct All-School Chat re: Dec board call - yup
 - Post to forum about Dec board call - yup
 - John
 - Catch up on Treasurer reports and email – last fiscal year all caught up
 - Laura
 - Post new mission statement draft to forum and Signal - did repost but forum emails are broken again
 - Sandra
 - Check bylaws around removal policy mentioned in conflict resolution doc – not yet
 - Circulate CRB policy for final approval – not yet
 - Post CRB policy when finished – not yet
- SPECIAL MEETING: Big Picture Meeting
 - Divination

- Mine – 24 The Piper (R)+64 Gawtcha (R), 56 Gloominous Doom, 46 The Friends (R). Drew clarifying card and got 23 The Green Woman. Stagnation, self pity, confusion.
- What have we accomplished over the last year?
 - Laura: 2 Rods reversed. Finished round of Elements! New Student! Meeting w/Tony! Progressive, moving forward including with challenges
 - John: Robin Wood 3 Swords We're making progress on lessons we need to learn, but there is still work to be done.
 - Sandra: Thoth deck 6 of cups, drew for more info and got 2 and 3 of wands. Finishing Elements. We accomplished a cycle, there's potent energy there.
 - Doneby: Witches Wisdom deck. Offering – the Hermit. Shows a person watering the roots, finishing elements ties in
 - Jenn: 7 of Swords, 4 of Cups. End of a big thing, and a bit of a dip afterward.
- What could we have done better?
 - Sandra: Art reversed – lack of balancing – light/dark, comfortable/uncomfortable, etc. 4 of wands – completion, clarity.
 - Laura: we still have this proces sof talking about things and kinda landing on a decision but then not taking the practical steps to do the thing. We are a very Air, thinky group. When we just do a thing it's amazing! Got Wheel of Fortune, finishing a cycle and sticking a landing, something we struggle with.
 - Jenn: The World, 4 of wands. If we just got out of our heads more and started just doing things, the whole world is open to us. But we often have the thought and act like the thing is done.
 - Doneby: 6 of Air. Same theme, not getting to the next level of integration
 - John: Hermit. We've got the light there, we aren't doing the job of holding it up. Thinking about the Temple and us not quite following through there.
 - E: Got a really confusing, negative reading, kind of unsure what the deal is. Will circle back later maybe
- Where are we spending tuition money, and what are students getting from it?(aka what are students getting for their dues?)
 - Sandra: 7 of Swords, futility. We're not using our money effectively. Haven't offered much of anything for continuing students. 6 of swords, science/clarity/order. Princess of Cups, balanced emotion. We're on the right path but need more action/balance.
 - Laura: Feels like this year is a contrast. Last year we used excess funds to help pay for the retreat. Less this year, but a few smaller classes with sliding scales. Our communication isn't as clear as we think it is. Lack of engagement.
 - Jenn: Lack of communication on the whole, as a member of Mstar what can I do, what are the options? If you're not on the board or a pillar you might not know. Wants to make a form for anybody to fill out if they have an idea to teach a class. Clarity on options would be helpful. Around spending money, same thing. What

do people want to spend money on? Bring in an outside teacher? What do people want to do? Let's fund that.

- John: 3 of Cups, a joyful/party card. Rephrased question as where should we be spending money (since knows where money is going)? We have an abundance, a variety of knowledge and ideas. Let's do something that makes everybody feel good!
- Doneby: still has a lot of questions around money and what we do with it. Tech aspects. Did we have a clear answer about paying teachers? Not sure about where that landed. 10 of Earth, evidently deck thinks we're doing fantastically and it's Doneby who's not clear. Likes that we spent money on the retreat, that's a good use.
- What do we want to do over the next couple of years?
 - Laura: got 3 of Cups Reversed. We sometimes put the cart before the horse. Like, "we want more students" rather than "let's offer things that might draw new students." One-off classes, offerings to the larger community. Toying with idea of a Foundations of Magic class. How do we get out of the spiral of thought and into action. If we spend another year thinking, lost energy. How do we get things moving forward.
 - Jenn: Devil and Page of Cups. Risk taking, doing the thing. People will make mistakes, things will happen that we don't want to happen. That trips us up, shadow of perfectionism. Going forward and just doing the thing and knowing it will be imperfect. Wants to see more support for each other in the school around following through with our own work and our own teaching. Getting feedback and support around teaching. Would be less scary to teach a class for the first time if we knew we were all cheering each other on and giving feedback to make each other better. Doesn't care all that much about getting a ton of new students. Wants to get the people who want to be here. Paganism has really changed over the last 10-15 years, maybe what we need for new people isn't newbies in need of basic training but instead people who are already doing the work and want community.
 - John: Out of touch with greater Pagan community. Knight of Wands – go forth and DO.
 - Sandra: 3 of Discs, doing the work, putting in the time, making concrete things. Ace of Discs for clarifying card. Put in the work. Need to work with balance, even with imbalance. Imbalance causes motion!
 - Jenn: been thinking, if we plan a whole year of classes (or whatever), what if we do run a deficit for a year or two? A planned imbalance to get some energy behind doing some things! We have a cushion to do that.
 - Sandra: strategic investment in ourselves would be a great idea. A danger, though, current job – they used one-time-only funds to set up ongoing expenses/efforts and are in trouble. We'd need to be careful.

- Doneby: Community of All Beings. Don't think we need to recruit a ton of newbies into Mstar but there's a part that would like to bridge. UU church is seeing a big influx of people, there's a need for community. People are scared, there's a lot to be scared about. People want to feel connected and supported. Wondering if we can provide a service external to mstar to people who are lost, scared, needing an anchor into their spiritual lives. People that don't have a daily practice. That are floating in this scary time.
- Laura: that feels very in line with idea of supporting teachers. How can we step forward and support each other in making things happen.
- Jenn: could see something like a 20-min once a month Zoom where whoever shows up shows up, we do an alignment and an unbinding, and that's it.
- Doneby: was really cool going to the temple together. E and Doneby have been working through the Keys to Perception and having a good time. Having frequent virtual contact is helpful.
- Jenn: Thorn is republishing Evolutionary Witchcraft with new content, would be cool to go through and read through the old version and new version together
- Laura: very interested in a working group to go through Elements. Finding ways to collaborate!
- John: do we have to get permission from Thorn to change Elements?
- General "no"
- Sandra: thinks it would be a great idea to go through and look at what Thorn was trying to teach, and what we want to teach, and where the game of telephone messed things up. Thinks it would be irresponsible NOT to examine the new material since we are billing Elements as being based on Thorn's teaching
- Laura: Almost wants for next meeting, come with three things would like to actively do with the school and what would need to make it happen. Like, "I want to get that disability magic class going, would Ealasaid be interested, could I bring Katie back?"
- Jenn: we've already changed Elements a LOT. Teaches her own stuff now, wants to support others in the school to teach their own stuff.
- Old Business
- New Business
 - Retreat report – nothing right now, Jenn and Laura to talk
 - Is there a newsletter coming up? (they go out on Equinoxes and Solstices) If so, let's send them an update.
 - Yes! The newsletter will be coming out soon. Did Lyssa already issue draft? Not sure.
 - Sandra: Will send a report on this meeting to the newsletter.
 - Doneby: Where did things land after the Emergency Meeting? Sandra is gathering questions with Laura to figure out what info we need to get from an expert.
- Action Items

- Ealasaïd
 - Upload minutes
 - Send draft notes to Sandra today
 - Add "status of Emergency Meeting action items" to February meeting agenda
- Laura
 - Ping E about board election procedure
- Sandra
 - Report on this meeting to Lyssa
 - Check bylaws around removal policy mentioned in conflict resolution doc
 - Circulate CRB policy for final approval
 - Post CRB policy when finished
- Confirm next month's call – February 14, 2026, 10am Pacific
- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together, thanking Lux, and reciting the Holy Mother prayer.

Adjourned at 11:24 am Pacific