



Free Horizon Montessori March Meeting Minutes

March 13th, 2025

Attendees:

Board Members: Rae Lyons Lisa Smith, Josh Camp, John Frost

Staff: Julia Hawlsey (Staff Liaison), Jenna Layne (Governance Committee)

Call to order @ 6.22 by John Frost, Reading of Mission, Vision and Values by Lisa Smith

Agenda/Reports/Minutes:

Motion to Approve Agenda by Lisa Smith. Second: Rae Lyon

Celebrations:

- America's Favorite Teacher – Miss Julia to share the link. Runs to end of April.
- Staff Party – April 19th.
- Field Trip to the Museum was a success – congratulations to the Upper El team and the chaperones
- Evacuation was well managed – challenging time but great job by all
- Rae for her work on the GSC
- Donetta for her continued commitment to the school and how she deals with challenging situations in a professional manner
- Signage on the field – clarification that the signs exist as a result of childcare licensing requirements. Other discussion around welcoming environment. Should schedule for further discussion.
- John Frost and his continued work to support the school

Principal Updates

- Enrollment is healthy. Primary demand exceeds supply.
- JC clarification – drop off in enrollment in some out of trend areas. Doing some root cause analysis to assess why.
- Salary scales are published and offers went out.
- Interviews are going well and there are good candidates.
- Plumbing challenges due to age of building. Tracking down source of the leak. Will be addressed over the summer. Jeffco will fund the repair.
- AMS conference is currently on and we have a large amount of teachers attending – good that the conference is in the Denver area.

Principal Survey

- Survey is carried out by Jeffco. Donetta will want to continue this as a charter.
- Donetta published the results. All very high %'s in the 90's. It is clear that Donetta is outperforming her peers within her cohort and across the Jeffco Community.
- Donetta achieved over 100% on over 50% of questions.
- Her lowest % was in effective management with a still very high score of 86%. As the lowest scoring area, this was identified as something that could be identified as a potential opportunity to invest in training in the future.

Staff Liaison Update

- Big Questions – How do you feel about AI? How do feel about students using AI? Do you use AI? Great comments back from staff with varying viewpoints.
- RL – question on if AI training would be beneficial to the staff.
- Thank yous for the community – staff development day, CSN for helping teachers to attend the AMS conference.
- READ Plan – access to this over the summer will change when we are a charter. DMD: Will need to be addressed as part of the charter transition. Won't impact until Summer 27/28.
- Carline – are there solutions for people with kids walking across the west parking lot during carline? Safety Hazard. Are there solutions to help people cross with their children. Crossing Guard? Julia to follow-up with Jesse.

Presidents Update

- Positive partnership continues with Donetta and the administration.
- Nothing new to report on the Charter Application

Board Self Evaluation

- Overall positive.
- Areas of improvement identified around strategic planning, division of operational and strategic, and need for additional training for the board on school operations.

GSC Grant

- RL updated on the GSC eligibility . FHM is eligible with our pending charter status.
- Information is coming around timing and how to apply.
- Funds would likely be available in June 2026.
- Would need to make some marked changes to be eligible – need to show growth.
- Tied to strategic planning but cannot wait until July.

- Scope of spend is broad – facilities, programming, staffing
- Committee to be established. Make up of committee with: 2 Board Members and 4 staff/admin as a minimum.

Motion: Lisa motioned to establish a committee for the GSC Grand with a make up of a committee with 2 Board Members and staff/admin as a minimum

Second: JF

Vote: Did not pass

Motion: Lisa motioned to establish a grant committee with a make up of committee with 2 Board Members and 4 staff /admin as a minimum

Second: RL

Vote: Passed

John will appoint Rae to lead the committee.

Assignments

Meeting Assignments:

- Finance Committee to bring proposal to the April Meeting. LS to add agenda item.
- Julia to bring back question to the staff on potential for AI training – value?
- Julia to discuss with Jesse on the carline safety question.
- Agenda item on the April committee to discuss planning for July Strategic Planning Meeting
- Agenda item for the April for the government committee to consolidate and compile training suggestions as an input to the strategic planning meeting in July
- John appointed RL to lead the committee. Donetta to identify potential staff members.
- Discussion opened on the outside time, Jeff Co minimums and how that may change when we become a charter. Balance between the instructional time and the outside time.
- Add to agenda for April discussion on potential ways to engage community input to the strategic planning process.

Motion to Adjourn made at 838 by JF. Seconded by RL

Lisa Smith

Secretary

subject matter being discussed must remain confidential so long as no formal action is taken during the private portion of the meeting, called the "executive session". The Sunshine Law strictly defines eight (8) criteria under which a private executive session can be held, personnel discussion being one of them. The law also states the community must be informed of the meeting and the criteria under which an executive session must be called.