



SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Location: **Sherwood Montessori Room No. 3
746 Moss Avenue, Chico, California**
Date/Time: **Thursday, May 7, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
 - 1.1 Roll Call** Chris Fosen, David Kuperman, Peter DiFalco, Joe Wilson, Kristy Cowell, Mark Reiser, Russell Shapiro
- 2. CONSENT AGENDA**

None
- 3. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**
 - 3.1 River Montessori Observation**
 - 3.2 Special Education Models for Charter Schools in Butte County**
 - 3.3 Board Retreat Outcomes**
- 4. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None
- 5. REGULAR BUSINESS**

None
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Any person may address the Board during the “Public Comment” item by stating their name for the record and reason for comment. The Board may not act on any matter unless duly agendized for a future meeting.
- 7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
 - 7.1 The Board will receive a revised Local Control Accountability Plan**
 - 7.2 The Board will be asked to approve an Exclusive Representation Agreement**
- 8. CLOSED SESSION**
 - 8.1 Public Employee Performance Evaluation**

With respect to every item of business to be discussed in a closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957. Title: School Director.
- 9. ADJOURNMENT (Est. 8:00 p.m.)**

As a 501(c)3 non-profit public benefit corporation, the meetings of the Sherwood Montessori Board of Directors are open to the public. An individual who requires disability-related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the Board meeting should notify the board in writing at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. All meetings of the Board of Directors will be advertised on the school website and recorded in accordance with the Brown Act.



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors
From: Michelle Yezbick, School Director
Subject: **Agenda Item 3.1 River Montessori Observation**
Date: May 1, 2015 for the meeting of May 7, 2015

On April 20, 2015, our two upper elementary teachers, our middle school teacher, our math intervention teacher, and our school director spent the morning in River Montessori's upper elementary classrooms. We came away with many ideas and overall we were deeply impressed with what we saw.

I have prepared a slideshow of photos I would like to share with the Board that illustrate some of the takeaways from that experience.



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors

From: Michelle Yezbick, School Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 3.2 Special Education Models for Charter Schools in Butte County**

Date: May 1, 2015 for the meeting of May 7, 2015

On April 8th, the school director, SBIT coordinator, and math intervention teacher had a conference call with Rusty Gordon, current SELPA Director for BCOE. On April 29th, the school director attended a Charter School Executive Leaders meeting in which information about charter schools who are independent LEAs with the Butte County SELPA are funded and the possibility of a CHELPA being formed was shared. This information will be shared with the board.



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors
From: Michelle Yezbick, School Director
Subject: **Agenda Item 3.3 Board Retreat Outcomes**
Date: May 1, 2015 for the meeting of May 10, 2015

While the work of the Board Retreat held on April 11, 2015 is not yet complete, a report is attached here that sums up the work completed so far.

Attachment: Board Retreat Notes from April 11, 2015



Retreat of the Board of Directors

April 11, 2015

DRAFT

Facilitator: Dave Patterson, PhD, Ed Innovations

Present: Board Members David Kuperman, Chris Fosen, Peter DiFalco, Mark Reiser, Kristy Cowell, Russell Shapiro, Joe Wilson and School Director Michelle Yezbick

Mission Statement

Strengths

- Montessori gives strength to mission
- Sherwood the only Montessori school around
- Core and committed group of parents
- Teachers are committed and have good relationships with parents
- Strong educational program
- Caring environment
- Allow individual students to reach individual goals

Opportunities

- Teachers- interns from college
- Connections with other organizations similar to us/our mission
- Chico State

Weaknesses

- Not understood by public
- Children come at any time- hard to adjust (missed opportunities)
- Assumption school is a service
- Communicate brand effectively
- Lack of perceived ownership by parents
- Lack of clarity between roles of stake holders

Threats

- Pool of teachers
- Expectation that school is a service
- Facilities
- Test requirements
- Authorizer- Chico Unified
- Small town politics
- Public perception
- Changing fund model

Fiscal

Strengths

- Strong business management talent
- Clean audits
- Good fiscal management
- Reserves (10%)
- Growth plan to stabilize enrollment
- Line of credit at local bank- good relationships
- BCOE- short term loans and such

Weaknesses

- Declining enrollment- some years
- No people on board/connection to philanthropists or major donors
- Declining resources: new kids come with high needs and need money for resources
- Lack of working capital
- Fundraising not a major contributor- 3-4%
- School size too small

Opportunities

- Change in funding model may help
- Charter schools are still “hot” for investors

Threats

- PERS/STRS
- Healthcare

Educational Program

Strengths

- Sherwood Montessori is ready for Common Core, but also much more; does better
- Our teachers value autonomy and the culture of Sherwood
- Montessori philosophy used in aftercare
- Quality of English Learners program- students are seen as strong
- Students demonstrate critical thinking skills
- Very robust intervention program
- Sherwood graduates are seen as strong students

Weaknesses

- Not all teachers are Montessori trained
- Sherwood not funding Montessori training
- Facilities limitations impact program
- “Holes” in student education when they enter high school e.g.: science
- Inadequate supply of technology
- Formative assessments in project-based form

Opportunities

- CUSD is generally supportive of Sherwood
- Seeking out grants that build a Montessori program (i.e. science)
- Deliver our own special education services
- CSU, Chico- utilize opportunity

Threats

- Lack of qualified pool of Montessori teachers
- Authorizer special education services- weak
- Common Core defined in a way incompatible with non-traditional approach

Objective	Duration	Who is Responsible?	Impact H/M/L
1. Develop communication strategy (branding, encouraging participation, etc.).		Subcommittee of the Board	High Value, Medium Effort
2. Create-within the larger plan, a plan for an interim facility.			
3. Clearly identify roles and responsibilities of the Board vs School Director, and communication.			
*4. Explore what to make Board work more effective, e.g., sub-committee work every other meeting/month use of employees, external special advisors.			
*4. Create our own special education program.			
*4. Identify sources of capital.			
*4. Create a plan to get our permanent facility-then execute.			

*four-way tie for fourth place