

**Urban Prairie Waldorf School**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**June 27, 2019**

6:47	OPEN SESSION:  VERSE.
6:48	DISCUSSION: Informal kitchen update. The kitchen entity has been created as an LLC owned by UPWS. The LLC has filed for a city business license. The application is winding its way through planning, zoning, and IMD approval. Then it will go to the department of finance. Thereafter, we will have the opportunity to invite an inspector. In the meantime, the floors have been completed, and plumbing lines are being checked. The kitchen team has a capital budget to build out the kitchen, but there is no operating budget yet. The kitchen team is looking into the cost of putting a skylight in the kitchen for more light.
7:07 p.m.	OPEN QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION WITH PIGAA TEAM:  As discussed at the last board meeting and in the FAQ distributed to the community, the PIGAA team consisted of administrative, board, and faculty representatives who engaged in a process throughout the school year of researching and analyzing the best governance model for UPWS. They studied many facets. Community members in attendance were encouraged to ask questions.  During the question and answer session, it was discussed that the biggest recommended change in shared governance model is that of a “head of school” to drive the mission of the school and the work necessary for that. This person will coordinate across the realms of the school. This person will be a decision facilitator with decision making authority. The head of school does not need to have been a Waldorf teacher, but must have a Waldorf background.  Additionally, PIGAA is recommending “level chairs” within the faculty structure at the early childhood, grade school, and middle school levels.  The PIGAA process was driven in part by the goal of strengthening the school, which will help during the next steps in the process of obtaining the next level of accreditation. Much research went into PIGAA’s process, including researching how other fully accredited schools operate, and contacting several of those innovative schools to discuss best practices. All Waldorf schools follow a collaborative leadership model, which is key. But there tends to be a single point of contact.  Upon approval from the board, PIGAA will take up the implementation in stages.

	ACTION: The board voted to approve PIGAA’s recommended governance structure.
7:42	DISCUSSION: Community members inquired how the next school year will look from a programmatic and enrollment standpoint.  Hannah Avellone explained that the faculty is currently discussing this. The school will be adding more in the realm of practical arts, including with respect to the goats, bees, and fuller gardens that are developing – this leads to deeper practical arts, such as animal husbandry. As of now, we will return to full Spanish programming, full orchestra programming, reduced chorus programming, but there are no candidates for eurhythmy. Mandarin will remain at full programming levels, and the hiring committee are considering handwork programming decisions.  As of this date, enrollment for next year is currently at 125, with 4-6 more families considering.
7:58	VOTE ON THE BOARD SLATE:  ACTION: The board member slate and officer slate were both approved.
8:04	DISCUSSION: Sharla Paul provided an update on the visioning of the outdoor play space. The current vision is that we will build the play space out in phases, using woodchips, dirt and other materials to essentially build hills and green spaces on top of the parking lot surface. A Christy Weber landscaper came out to see it and is helping with planning. We are getting woodchips for free from the department of forestry services. We also believe we can also grow quaking aspen because the roots grow horizontally. The school will also be looking for ways to provide shade. UPWS will look to fundraise for the efforts to build out the play space in stages.
8:13 p.m.	End Open Session
Attendees, Open Session	Community: Janine Farzin, Miguel and Adriana Haro, Petra Roggel, Rocky Talwar, Heather Berhalter, Jennifer Brenner.  Faculty: Hannah Avellone.  Administration: Peggy Lofgren  Board: Peg Kern, Mike Grill, Nisreen Al-Qamari, Catherine Francis, Sharla Paul, Rey Phillips Santos.
8:16 p.m.	CLOSED SESSION.

	ACTION: The board voted to approve the budget as presented by the finance committee.
9:43	Closed Session Ended.