

**PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
MOUNTAIN OAK SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Special Meeting Minutes– March 20, 2024**

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02(1) notice is hereby given to the members of the Mountain Oak School and the general public that the Board of Directors of the Mountain Oak School will meet on the time and date listed below. The meeting will be held at the Mountain Oak School, 1455 Willow Creek Rd., Prescott, Arizona. The Board may vote to go into Executive session on any agenda item, pursuant to A.R.S. 38.-431.01(A)(3) for legal advice on matters as set forth in the agenda item. Executive session are not open to the public. Board Members or other participants may attend by telephonic conference. The following topics and any variables thereto will be subject to Board consideration, discussion, approval, or other action. All items are set for possible action.

**Vision: Mountain Oak School is Committed to the Following:**

- Developing and enriching our school offering and campus.
- Maintaining and building our financial health.
- Expanding our presence and visibility in the greater community.
- Becoming a nexus of Waldorf cultural activity in Arizona and the nation.
- Cultivating and supporting a strong and vibrant school community.

Meeting Type:	Date:	Start Time:	End Time:	Location:
Special Meeting	March 20, 2024	3:52 PM	5:50 PM	Mountain Oak School 1457 Willow Creek Rd Prescott AZ 86301 7th/8th Grade Classroom in the Great Hall <b>or virtual link to join meeting see below</b>

Agenda Items		Presenter
1.	<b>Meeting Opening</b> a. <b>Welcome and Call to Order</b> b. <b>Opening Quote</b> c. <b>Roll Call</b> d. <b>Open Meeting Law Reminder</b>	Board President
2.	<b>Approve Agenda March 20, 2024</b> AA motions to approve the agenda. JR 2nd. Aye: KL, JR, AA, PR, BM, TH. CR abstains because her audio was not working.	Board Member
3.	<b>Public Comment</b> a. <b>Josh Larson</b> - school boards are representatives of parents and teachers; they are not here for their personal agendas. Benefits of a 4-day school week - family time and rest. School boards all over the nation are not listening to teachers and parents. It seems like this board was not listening to the parents when we requested a 4-day school week last year since it wasn't communicated or fully evaluated and discussed. This school board has the opportunity to show they are listening by voting for the 4-day school week which is what the parents and teachers want.	
4.	<b>Discussion and Possible Action Items</b> a. <b>Open Meeting Law Discussion</b> - JN stated we have had OML violations in the past and we're more vigilant now and need to continue to be vigilant and aware of walking quorums. There can't be side discussions between board members because of a potential walking quorum. JN also noted that we always need to add an open meeting law disclaimer on emails to the board.	Board Member

TH requests adding walking quorum definition to handbook. Record side conversations in google drive so we don't accidentally create walking quorum. And add an OML disclaimer that can be used in our emails.

**b. Discuss 4-Day School Week -**

JN commented that the school did listen and act on some of the parent survey responses: food, transportation, facilities maintenance manager. The surveys are to grow our community. The community wants us to revisit the items: national food program, extracurricular, and 4-day school week. 36 out of 39 parent responses are for the 4-day school week. It would probably help us attract more new students. 21/24 of staff were for a 4-day school week. Concerns of kids having an extra hour of school but kids are also able to adjust well and overtime will benefit. It would better our specialty classes by potentially allowing us to offer 2 extra special classes such as music or woodwork or culinary lessons. Main lesson would move up to closer to 2 hours instead of 1 hour and 25 minutes. Fridays would be a big opportunity for sports, which the vast majority of parents want and would help increase our student enrollment. It may occasionally, but rarely, be required for snow make-up or festival practice.

JN is neutral and doesn't want to influence the board in their decision. He left the room at 4:16 to allow the board to discuss without him.

JR concerns from other teachers: will Fridays be structured well enough? It's hard to find consistent aides to work. Extra hour of school may be hard for kids and teachers. (But many kids have to work very hard growing up and were busy and had to get up early.)

Concerned with how the specialty teachers develop as Waldorf teachers. Is it realistic to find all the specialty teachers? How is Friday paid for? Will unenrolled students be able to come on Friday? Enrollment form for students to fill out before Friday? Would Main Lesson be cut short? (JN stated it would be extended) Not enough academic time? (Academic time will be increased during the 4-days.) Friday needs to be structured well. Specialty classes need to be meaningful, not just filling in the time.

TH bulk main lesson and 2 days of review and preview on either side of that main lesson. Has anyone looked over Main Lesson flow?

JR and AA state positives from teacher's perspective: More specialty classes and more prep time.

TH We need to clarify that 5th day won't be a day off. Teachers will have responsibilities for Friday they still have 40 hours a week even though they are not on campus 40 hours a week. It adds flexibility - working at home on Prof Development and planning or fieldtrip.

PR concerns of children getting up an hour earlier to accommodate a longer schedule.

AA Most parents are usually ready to drop kids off around 7:30 even though school doesn't currently start until 8:15.

JN re-entered the meeting at 4:40.

JN said some main classroom teachers have already said they would like to be here on Friday. Aides will work 5-days a week on campus. Some aides from summer camp want to work one day a week. Can charge

	<p>extracurricular fees on Friday using Title 1-based fee to pay for staff, costumes, sports equipment, etc. It will only be for students enrolled at MOS but we may collaborate with other schools on chess tournaments, sporting events, etc.</p> <p>BM Stated concern with funding and with feeling like we are behind on the logistics. JN Stated he has the calendars prepared. One day a month the teachers would have a professional development day on campus. Contract hour is met with school work days and PD days and would stipend Main Classroom teachers for extra hours on Friday teaching extracurriculars. Teachers would prep after school to allow them to assist with specialty classes during the day. Students register and pay for extracurriculars in advance. We'd buy another van to allow Chino and PV students to be picked up at the same time. The breakfast program would be at the beginning of class. Fridays would be treated as a bell schedule for kids who are here all day. In regard to speciality teachers being more Waldorf, our community must determine what Waldorf-inspired is.</p> <p>CR Hard to fit all the lessons in a 4-day week when there is a specific timeline in which students learn specific things in Waldorf. It's a good idea to consult a Waldorf expert before we make a choice because it would be difficult or impossible to fit all the blocks into a 4-day school week. Or the school could move away from Waldorf. Requested a schedule to show how the blocks would be taught with a 4-day school week.</p> <p>TH recommends reaching out to other school and Waldorf experts (maybe Liz Bevean) and teachers. Do we move toward or away from Waldorf school? Can a Waldorf-inspired school be provided in a 4-day school week?</p> <p>BM mentions the 4-day school week wasn't evaluated last year because our charter's specific purpose is to be Waldorf-inspired and we want to hold true to our charter and Waldorf experts along with the community.</p> <p>CR can't say we're Waldorf inspired if we go to a 4-day school week without being sure we can fit the blocks into a 4-day school week. The Alliance for Public Waldorf Education allows us to work with them as long as we are staying true to Waldorf. We could move away from Waldorf and say we are inspired by some of Steiner's philosophies without claiming the name Waldorf. We can do Waldorf things without claiming the name Waldorf.</p> <p>TH: MOS and majority community members are asking to go from 5-day week to 4-days instructional learning and 1 enrichment and development day. TH motions to move from a 5-day instructional learning week to a 4-day instructional learning week for 2024-2025. KL 2nd. In favor: AA, KL, JR Nay: CR (wants to see schedule first to see if we can continue Waldorf. My job is to protect the name Waldorf), PR, BM TH abstain until seeing sample block rotations and bell schedule.</p> <p>JN will upload calendar and bell schedule before the next meeting.</p>	
5.	<b>Adjournment by</b> PR. TH 2nd. Unanimously aye at 5:50 PM	Board President

**Attendee Information:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>E-Mail Address</b>	<b>Present</b>
Amber Alexander, Faculty Board Member	aalexander@mountainoakschool.org	x
Tim Harrington, President	osmliving@gmail.com	x
Cindy Roe, Board Member	croe@mountainoakschool.org	X
Katie Larson, Secretary, Charter Representative	katie.larson@mountainoakschool.org	x
Brandy Meade, Treasurer	brandymis@gmail.com	x
James Nolen, School Director, Ex Officio	jnolen@mountainoakschool.org	x
Peter Rennick, Vice President	pire2@cox.net	x
Jonathan Ruf, Faculty Board Member	jruf@mountainoakschool.org	x