

To: Parents, Teachers, Staff

From: Brett Matthews, Board President

Subject: Overview of Upcoming January 24th Board Meeting and January 30th Board Governance Retreat.

Hope everyone is off to a great start this New Year. Below highlights key agenda items for our upcoming Board Meetings:

Student Learning and Achievement:

Strategic Plan Final Reading:

A 24-member committee of parents, teachers and staff revised our Strategic Plan. The committee recommended two new Strategic Initiatives around Global Perspectives and Technology in a 21st Century School. The Board reviewed the draft in November and suggested some edits and revisions to the new initiatives. During this agenda item, we will review a final draft of the Strategic Plan.

Enrollment:

MUS is growing and as of 1/30/12, we will be at 461 students. This is 20 more students than we had this time last year. Even with this increased enrollment we are still at 15-20 students per classroom. We received one application under the Romero Bill/Open Enrollment Act and we have offered provisional acceptance to the applicant, according to our policy. As a reminder, The Romero Bill allows for students from low-performing schools (as defined by the state—sadly there are 1000 schools on this list in California) to transfer to a high-performing school, even if they live outside the district. MUS created a policy to determine how we review and process applications.

Business and Finance:

2010-2011 Audit Report:

We will review the 2010-2011 Audit Report. Overall, MUS continues to maintain appropriate fiscal policies and practices and the Audit Report reflects that. The audit showed four findings. The findings are minor and the administration has already rectified the issues and put systems in place.

California Budget:

The California State Budget continues to cut educational funding. MUS is impacted and will plan for for an additional funding reduction of \$370 per child for the 2012-2013 year. This represents approximately \$170,000. The administration continues to monitor the California budget and potential adverse effects to MUS.

Facilities and Grounds:

The architects have been working to assess the existing facility and grounds and have been doing surveys and infrastructure testing. This is an important part of the process to establish a baseline of current facilities in order to guide our future plans. At the meeting, we will be briefed on the process to get feedback from teachers and parents regarding their hopes and desires as we develop the Facilities Master Plan.

Culture and Governance:

Board Reports:

The Board has been discussing ways to further engage the overall Montecito community around MUS. One idea we discussed centers on creating a Community Forum. The forum would provide a “speaker” series that would tap into the vast and unique talents within our community. We will discuss the process regarding development of this concept and the formation of a Steering Committee.

Human Resources

Over the course of the year, the Board has reviewed various job descriptions. This month, we will review the Dean of Students job description.

Governance Retreat January 30th from 9-1:

As part of the Board’s work on governance matters, the Board will have a training session. The session focus is on:

- Best practices on communication
- Crisis management communication (for instance, if there is a natural disaster or any public concern or worry)
- Running Board study sessions on topics of importance and community interest
- Brown Act updates, which dictate public meeting legal requirements

As we enter the halfway point of the school year, I want to thank the MUS teachers, staff and administration for their commitment to our children’s education and for their continuous efforts to reach and positively impact each child. I also want to thank the dedication of our parents who contribute their time and resources to help make MUS such a special place in our children’s lives. Your efforts do make a positive difference! Thank you and I hope everyone has a great weekend!