

**PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MOUNTAIN OAK COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Agenda – August 20th, 2025**

OPEN MEETING PRACTICE:

As a private entity, MOCS is not held to Open Meeting Law; however, the Board is committed to Open Meeting Practice. Thus, agendas will be posted at the physical location of MOCS and on our website prior to each Board meeting. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The following topics are open to Board consideration, discussion, approval, or other action. The Board may vote to go into Executive session on any agenda item for private discussion or legal advice on matters as set forth in the agenda item. Executive sessions are not open to the public.

MISSION & VISION:

MOCS is a community-based school dedicated to fostering a nurturing, restorative, and dynamic learning environment. We strive for and envision a vibrant educational community where every student thrives in a supportive and inclusive atmosphere that celebrates creativity, diversity, and holistic development.

Meeting Type:	Date:	Start Time:	End Time:	Location:
Regular Meeting	08/20/2025	3:45 pm MST The room will open to the public at 3:35 pm.	5:35pm MST	Mountain Oak Community School 1457 Willow Creek Rd Prescott AZ 86301 7th/8th Classroom or to join virtually, please see below.

	Agenda Items:	Presenter:
1	<p>Meeting Opening 3:49pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Welcome, Call to Order, Roll Call b. Weekly Soul-Purpose Reflection 2025-2026 Week 17 c. Opening Reflections TH discusses togetherness despite uncertainty, thanks the LT. Gives definition of leadership as empowering & supporting. Discusses approach of school leadership vs. Director position. 	<p>Board President:</p> <p>Can I expand my soul so it unites itself with the cosmic seed it has received?</p> <p>I have a sense that I must find the strength to make my soul a worthy vessel for the spirit's forming power.</p>

2	<p>Open Meeting Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reminder TH discusses the value of public & community in accordance with OMP. Reminder given regarding public sharing process. Invitation to adjust spreadsheet. b. Board Member Trainings & Terms 	Board President
3	<p>Consents, Reviews, Approvals, Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consent Items KL motions to approve, TH 2nd. Unanimous aye. Motion passes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Approve Prior Minutes: July 22 ii. Approve Current Agenda: August 20 b. Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Approve Mission & Vision Statements TH will send out revised statements to the Board for approval and adoption through email. ii. Review/Modify Leadership Succession Plan TH opens floor. Question of keeping board president and interim Director or electing new Board president. JR contributes. Leave the way it is but look at adjusting in future so the board president and interim director are separate. Closed with TH tasked to update. iii. Van Report Van is repaired. MD looking into a bill. ParentSquare announcement with fee update. TH mentions that ESA contracts should be approved prior to providing van transport. iv. Committee Consolidation TH reviews the document and explains that committees are leadership/staff jurisdiction but Board members would cheerlead, mentor, support, and act as a resource. TH suggests grouping committees, as there is overlap, in terms of functional projects. PR talks about designating roles, that each committee needs to have a lead. TH would like to see committee meetings on the master faculty calendar, publish existing committees with Board member representatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposal 2. Committee Spreadsheet v. Loan progress MD got 2 short term loans over the summer and has 5 current loan options open; MD working with TH, discussion of mortgage & property, campus equity based loans, SBA. Potential to combine into one loan. Projected enrollment allows for reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Board President b. Board Members

TH talks about strategies to build reserves; continue topic.

- vi. School Accreditation **Tabled until there is a strategic advantage to seek accreditation.**
- vii. Ryan Brown **PR** says **RB** has a real grasp, sensical, dedicated, sense of duty. **RY** says **RB** is dedicated and has many good ideas. **SC** agrees in online chat box. **TH** asks **RB** for 2 positives. **RB** responds that **MOCS** has a unique and ambitious offering and uncompromising dedication of staff. **TH** asks for 1 thorn, to which **RB** replies communication channels to parents and greater community. **TH** affirms opportunities and existence as a different school, talks of new tools to enhance communication that will result in increased enrollment. **PR** motions to approve **RB** as Board member. Several simultaneous 2nds, including **JR**, **KL**, **SC**. Unanimous aye. **Motion passes.**
KL suggests jumping to public comment & reads comment card. See item 4.
- viii. Exit Interviews Report **For families that are leaving and a community interview for current families. Amanda has been working on this with questions to families that have transitioned out – will have this ready by next meeting. Add as a new business item.**
- ix. Community Letter informational update **Already sent. Item closed. TH mentions this and the newsletter and weekly note, a potential place for Q&A.**
- x. Parent Service Program - see items 3biv, 8e **The purpose of which is to build MOCS community.**
- xi. [STO and ESA](#) **ESA awards and tax credits are not concurrent, but open to others.**
- xii. Approve FY25-26 Budget **Budget will be in a potential deficit, will take urgent energy to fundraise and pursue donations and other income options, in-kind exchange will lower hard costs.**
- xiii. FY25-26 Faculty Contracts & Distribution **Completed.**
- xiv. Updates to position descriptions & salaries **Tabled for future meeting, 2 meetings from now ideally.**
 - 1. [Position descriptions FY 25-26](#)
 - 2. [Position descriptions FY 24-25](#)

5 min break; video call troubleshooting.

4	Public Comment & Guidelines Mike Meeham appreciates the staff and all they do for his grandson and the school.	
5	Board Reports RB asks about parent conversations. KH reports parent agitation about invoices. Discussion that parents are concerned about longevity, survivalability, transparency. 30% consistent attrition. RB explains the easiest path is to reach previous customers. Some parents are split, with some children at MOCS and others at other schools. MOCS staff are willing to invest in personal communication and truly care. Parents want direct communication with offers to help. TH responds that lack of transparency is a possible misperception; TH has distributed letters to the team, affirms that RB will have a strong role in messaging. The consistent message to families is and has been that we are a transitioning school dedicated to educating the whole child, looking to the future. TH affirms that it is good to investigate attrition. ESA communication disconnect – MOCS is not tuition-free but funded by ESA and in-kind services. TH affirms that MOCS is not like any other school. PR asks if there would be value in reaching out to parents whose children did not return one-to-one rather than in a public meeting setting and requests an assignment of this task. RB responds that instead of a focus on the exit interview, we might focus on parents personally, explaining that parents are worried about the future. TH explains that Amanda is trying to gain access to former families, TH mentions attrition as a possible self fulfilling prophecy, but the conclusion of the matter depends on parent commitment; says this will be part of the MOCS success story. We are moving forward while we handle the unforeseen. RB discusses expenses. TH mentions prioritizing ESA payments, value of RB membership. Discusses future possibilities of leadership. KH suggests a need for parent ombudsman. TH affirms that need in order to eliminate fear. PR asks if RB and Amanda might coordinate to get feedback from families who have left; wonders if something specific might be done. TH expresses knowing reasons they have left would be of value, mentions need for survey, the perception of lack of transparency can be turned around. PR asks for specific action. RB plans to reach out to families with phone calls, coffee meetings, etc. RB says that having teachers talk to parents to get a picture of what parents are thinking, especially those who are on the fence, being open with parents and getting their feedback, building vulnerability and trust in parent relationships. TH mentions newsletter, leadership team, recognizing shared leadership.	
6	Community Reports Next meeting. a. Director Report b. Leadership Reports i. Operations ii. Education iii. SpED iv. ECD v. Faculty c. Committee Reports - <i>pending Board action</i>	a. Timothy Harrington (In progress) b. Leadership i. Michael Donelson ii. Marlene Sullivan iii. Carmen Alvey iv. Kellie Halliday v. Jonathan Ruf c. <i>Pending Board action</i>
7	Unfinished Business / Action Items a. Ryan Brown See item 3bvii. i. Interview Notes from August 11, 2025	a. Katie Larson b. Katie Larson

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Present as candidate for the Board b. Accept KL resignation TH compliments and recognizes KL, gives appreciation, KL affirms that she hopes to continue supporting the school. TH talks of previous ventures with addressing affluency gaps through storytelling. 1 brings 2 concept. TH motions to accept, RB 2nd, unanimous aye. TH asks to add RB to the governance drive. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Need for a new Board Treasurer? Not addressed. 	
8	<p>New Business / Discussion Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ESA Q1 Invoice distribution review Next meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. ESA Considerations Touched on previously. b. National Microschooling Center Membership Next meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. NMC website c. Website update (OCUSS) TH explains new elements. c. Press Release Ready to go, but needs output sources; MS needs access. TH would like to get this out the door. d. Newsletter to the MOCS community Touched on previously. e. Tuition Clarification Letter review Next meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Questions from PR, SC ii. SC Idea f. Fundraising Letter review Next meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Draft 8/13 ii. Draft 8/14 g. Back-to-school review (Notes) Next meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Leadership Meetings July 24-25 ii. Teacher In-service Week July 28-Aug 1 iii. Open House review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Board Members b. Board President c. Board President d. Board President e. Board Members f. Board Members g. Board Members
9	<p>Other Items KH requests press release involve more of a focus on STEM activity. TH affirms and gives examples of future development in this area. TH, PR and RB affirm need for meeting sooner than a month – 2 weeks, same day/time.</p>	<p>Set for Wednesday Sept 3, 2025 @ 3:45p</p>
10	Meeting Summary	Board President
11	<p>Meeting Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Closing Reflections b. Closing Quote 	Board President
12	Adjournment 5:35p MST	Board President

Posted on School Website by: Designated Webmaster

Date: 8/22/2025

Attendee Information:

Name:	E-Mail Address:	P/A:
Board Members:		
Tim Harrington, President & Interim Director	osmliving@gmail.com	P
Peter Rennick, Vice President	pjre2@cox.net	P
Katie Larson, Treasurer	katie.larson@mountainoakschool.org	P
Rose Ybarra, Staff Board Member	attendance@mountainoakschool.org	P
Jonathan Ruf, Faculty Board Member	jruf@mountainoakschool.org	P 3:56p
Sarah Cramer, Secretary	scramer@mountainoakscool.com	P
Reporters:		
Michael Donelson, Operations	billing@mountainoakschool.org	P, left 5:05p
Marlene Sullivan, Education	msullivan@mountainoakschool.org	P
Carmen Alvey, SpED	calvey@mountainoakschool.org	A
Kellie Halliday, ECD	khallday@mountainoakschool.org	P
Guests:		
Ryan Brown, prospective board member	ryanbrown001@gmail.com	P

Members of the public present: 4; RB voted in as Board Member

Virtual Meeting Information:

MOCS Monthly Board Meeting - August 2025

Wednesday, August 20 · 12:45 – 3:15pm

Time zone: Pacific/Honolulu

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/bjy-ecuw-yfm>