



## **Sherwood Montessori Board of Directors Retreat**

**Nov. 3, 2024 10am - 2pm**

**Sherwood Montessori Middle School Classroom**

The Board of Directors of Sherwood Montessori will have a Board Retreat for the purposes of planning for the organization. This is an open, public meeting. The public is invited to attend, observe, and record the retreat. The public will not be invited to participate in the retreat.

### **Agenda**

#### **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.

Goal: To engage in a more thoughtful series of discussions on board governance, goals for the schools, and best practices in an environment free from the monthly scheduled tasks.

Re-Introductions. Who are we? Let’s get to know each other a little better to more clearly identify our strengths, skills, and talents as we move forward.

Legal Issues 101 for School Boards. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdibctnWhIE>

This short video will lead to a discussion and clarification of Brown Act issues. It is also important for the Board to annually review the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation

- *Action: Watch video (unless we all went to the training) and review charter documents so that all Board members feel confident in the organization and contents.*

Establishing Goals and Assessments for the Board. Often called the “Strategic Priorities”, the Board annually gives goals for the Director, but what do we wish to accomplish? How can the Board’s goals align with the strategic priorities we have set out for the school? To help future Boards, how can we assess the success of our achievement at the end of the school year?



- *Action: List out Strategic Priorities for this year's Board, the Goals or metrics that we wish to attain to address the priorities, and a reasonable and effectual assessment.*

Rethinking the Board-Director Relationship. The Board is one of three clearly defined roles at a charter school, the other two being the Director and the Staff. What is our role in governance? How should we work with as well as oversee the school Director?

- *Action: Discuss examples of effectual Board roles and relationships. Create a guiding document on our responsibilities and limitations overseeing the school Director that can be passed down to future Boards.*

Developing an Annual Board Calendar. Much of the Board's monthly meetings are predictable and can be planned for. As a Board, we can also bring in new ideas, thinking about the ebb, flow, and needs of the school year. The goal for this task is to create a foundational living calendar that can be passed down to next year's Board.

- *Action: Create an Annual Board Calendar document that will be used for future planning.*

Upcoming Board Elections. What are our recruiting needs? Thinking about the current Board members, what skills or assets are needed to build the out the Board? This is particularly important when thinking about upcoming opportunities and potential challenges.

- *Action: Write out a clear strategy for holding this year's elections with dates and roles, building off of the current Bylaws. This document will help with planning for future elections.*

Laying the Foundation for Future Planning.

- *Action: At the conclusion, Board members will write individual statements assessing the retreat to be used as guidance toward future retreats. One Board member will summarize the findings.*