

## **Coulee Montessori Governance Board Minutes**

01/16/2014 Lincoln Middle School, 5:38 pm

### **Call to order at 5:30 pm**

**Attendance:** Kim Shively, Danielle Sprain, Ann Epstein, Rebecca Duncanson, Becky Misch, Laura Huber, Tina Thomas, Melisa Murray, Mary Temp, Erin Hoy, Michele Cook, Gina Meinertz Jenny Dellenbach, Sara Jorgenson, and Deb Jaskewicz (teacher reps), Kristy Knoble, Sarah Beps-Flietner

**Guests in attendance/Public Comment:** via Skype Paul Epstein, head of Rochester Montessori School

### **Secretary's Report:**

1. November minutes approved

**Treasurer's report:**

Beginning balance:	\$4165.76
Paid Out	\$215.03
Deposits	\$650.04
End balance:	\$4600.77

1. Treasurer's report approved

### **Principal Murray's Report:**

- ⤴ CM projected incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade for next year anticipated from priority placement 12
- ⤴ 10 - 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 14 - 8<sup>th</sup> graders
- ⤴ We have to designate space for next year, will determine staffing availability
- ⤴ 6<sup>th</sup> grader parents possibly have options to enroll in middle or elementary school setting??

### **Principal Huber's Report:**

- ⤴ Enrollment numbers for 2014-15 given
- ⤴ Family night (Health topic) 1/23/14
- ⤴ As of today (the deadline was 12/20), we had 25 students apply for kindergarten at CM. Of these 25, we had 15 from our CM preschool of the remaining 10 applicants, 4 students had siblings in CM (all indicated that they had Montessori experience), 3 students did not have siblings in our program (or did not indicate this) but did have Montessori experience and three were new to our school completely (no sibs and no Montessori experience).

### **District-Wide Parent Committee:**

1. Meeting cancelled due to weather

### **Fund Raising Committee:**

1. Soup supper is Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, baskets for silent auction to be put together by classes
2. In the past, the Soup Supper/Silent Auction and the Rummage Sale have made \$2000 (combined)
3. Motion for \$75 for misc items for soup supper- approved

**Outreach Committee:**

1. \$100 approved for Parent/Teacher Conferences meals

**Education Committee:**

1. Next book club mtg 1/30/14 6:30-7:30 at Roosevelt

**Old/Unfinished Business**

1. Children's House Discussion
  1. 15 adults in attendance at Visitation Day in Dec.
  2. Setting our own min/max #'s: staff feels it is important to maintain SAGE numbers.
  3. Kristy Knoble reported from LMP that 8 of their 18 eligible PreK's have applied for a K spot in CH.
  4. If we can get 15 Kindergarteners in each class, we can have 2 sections, deadline is Feb. 15.
  5. A Montessori Preschool has opened in West Salem. Danielle has been in contact with the director there.
2. Mailers for PreK Discussion
  1. Costs for mass advertising to area zip codes targeting households with 4/5 year olds to CM CH for 2014-15.
  2. Mailers being discussed to 1) make families in the area aware of the Montessori option they have at Coulee Montessori and 2) to increase numbers to support a second all day Children's House.
  3. Motion to approve up to \$2500 in spending for mass mailers Approved
3. Board conferences, Website Update – Tabled for next meeting

**New Business**

1. Placement of 6<sup>th</sup> grade – presentation by Paul Epstein, Director of Rochester Montessori School in Rochester, MN and well versed regarding Montessori Middle School. Key points:
  1. Developmentally, 6<sup>th</sup> graders learn better when mixed with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders than with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They are ready to be leaders and thrive in this role. They are not ready for the adolescent challenges of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
  2. It is important to help families understand this developmental reality.
  3. Regarding extra-curricular opportunities at the middle school level, work to identify opportunities for 6<sup>th</sup> graders within the community (in response to this as a reason to move 6<sup>th</sup> graders into middle school.)
  4. Montessori E2 curriculum is designed for a three year age range (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>). If 6<sup>th</sup> graders move to middle school they lose a full year of academic curriculum specifically designed for them.
2. Board recruitment – Board members should be connecting with parents and community member who could possibly serve as board members. There will be one or two openings on the board for 2014-15. Roster of interested parties must be in place by the April meeting.

**Announcements:**

1. Gina announced that the adolescent program will be connecting on a regular basis with Deep Roots Family Farm. Congrats to Gina and the adolescent program!

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.