

# SET MINUTES

January 13, 2011  
5:30pm at LMC/Coulee Montessori/Roosevelt

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:31pm.

ROLL CALL was taken. Those present included: Laura Huber, Rene' Jacobs-Guenther, Stephanie Espe, Chandra Cox, Jen Harnisch, Lori Arndt, Kristi Koch, Jeff Mochalski, Leslee Cullen, Amanda Acklin

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE included: Mariah Strong, Dawn Comeau, Rebecca Duncanson, Tim Sprain, Danielle Sprain, Pete Yocum, Joe Beck, Jade Moseti, Finnian Cullen and Mary Enders-Stutesman

MEETING ROLLS were assigned:

Facilitator: Jen Harnisch

Secretary: Kristi Koch

Time Keeper: Rene' Jacobs-Guenther

December 2010 minutes were approved. Motion by Rene', seconded by Chandra.

NEXT SET MEETING: February 17, 2011 in Roos/CM LMC at 5:30pm. Jenny Dellenbach will facilitate.

SET BUSINESS:

A. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - Mrs. Huber

- 2006 Developmental Assessment survey is being done in grades 4-5-6-8. It is a climate survey that assesses safety and respect. Due to the survey being a standardized tool—30 kids are needed per grade level to do it accurately. CM doesn't have enough children in those grades and therefore the responses will be transcribed before submitting to get more accurate results.
- New staff-Judy Johnson has been hired as a replacement for Beth B in Ms. Stephanie's classroom. Beth took a full time position at Central.
- Report cards-are part of the school improvement plan. Continuity across the levels is the main goal. Communication and collaboration are being looked at.
- 2011-2012 school year planning-as it stands now, CM will lose a .5 preschool position. However, with the addition of more students, there is a possibility that position would stay. Everyone is encouraged to recruit for CM Children's House.
- Reconceptualizing-It is felt that with the classical board make-up, needs aren't being addressed. It was and is the hope that more parents would participate, the

opportunity for new and more families would become involved and therefore the new concept of meetings was brought forth. Transparency and more representation are values and practices that are important to CM as well as having more social and family input. The reconceptualization of meetings was discussed and put forth to the SET team to consider. Overall discussion was positive but no motion/vote given. See attached sheet with reconceptualizing idea-green sheet.

- Fundraising-Laura stated that the teachers have given ideas of where fundraising dollars could be directed. It was given to the SET team to consider and give feedback. See attached sheet with fundraising ideas-yellow sheet.
- By-law related material-Laura has looked through the by-laws on how committees are to do business. It needs to be written up how our committees currently function and an amendment placed into the constitution. Jeff stated that this is something that could be done when becoming a 501c (3) and placed into the bylaws at that time. See attached red sheet.
- Motion by Chandra-seconded by Jen for principal's report to continue for 10 more minutes.
- Adolescent Program Update-A survey was sent to grades 5/6/7 via email. In all, it was sent to the families of 23 children. The findings were discussed and the question of the future was posed. Looking at the student teacher ratio would reflect that a move to Lincoln would keep the CM adolescent program intact. By not moving the adolescent program to Lincoln would risk the school board making the decision to eliminate the program. With budget cuts more likely, it is a concern as staff cuts may happen. It is recommended by Laura that the CM adolescent program could be maintained and enhanced by moving it to Lincoln. There would be the possibility to increase enrollment as well as recruit more 5<sup>th</sup> graders into the program. This would ensure that the program would continue. Discussion was held on thoughts and feelings of the attendees. Everyone is encouraged to attend the school board meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> to share their insight into the possible relocation. See attached pink and purple sheets.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT - Jennifer Morgan reported an ending balance of \$3683.42 (See report at end of Minutes).

C. INCORPORATION UPDATE-Jeff was asked to explain the difference between incorporation and association. A general partnership has different liability and in the SET setting, incorporation is best for our situation, especially for fundraising and IRS review. We must do formalities to maintain corporation status. Jeff sees it as enhancing our

decision making process and imposing more structure which would make more forward decisions in a better climate. Jeff will continue to work on the articles and letter of incorporation. Motion by Jen and seconded by Lori to increase time on topic. Discussion held on redoing bylaws and looking at the charter. Since this is a different time for CM, should they be looked at right now? Is this the time to include the changes put forth by reconceptualizing? Motion to incorporate and place green sheet and red sheet into incorporation, made by Chandra, seconded by Jen. (See sheets at end of report).

- D. FOLK DANCE PRESENTATION-Mary Enders gave a presentation on the folk dance expert that would be in the Franklin/Roosevelt schools in early May. The benefits of folk dance were shared and how this could be an enriching family event. A request for \$600 was made to cover the costs of the band on the family evening. Motion made to give \$300 and have Roosevelt/Franklin PTO assist with what they could. Motion not carried. Chandra to check into local businesses to see if they would be willing to donate to the cause.
- E. FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE - Given by Jennifer Harnisch. Final numbers are not yet available for the New Year's Eve Fundraiser. Future possible fundraising activities include: Spring Rummage Sale, possible t-shirt/sweatshirt sales, possible dinner instead of pancake breakfast.
- F. DISTRICT WIDE PARENT MEETING -Report given by Dawn Comeau in absence of Danielle Sprain. A brief update was shared on the new legislative changes made by the new governor and how schools will be expected to "do more with less" . The concept of professional learning communities in which teachers get together to discuss how to make learning situations better was shared. The 95 dilemma concept was explained in which math scores have improved since the 1970's and school drop-outs have decreased in that time. People have a tendency to think that schools are doing worse and in reflection, 95% of all schools are doing very well in comparison to the 1970's decade. There will also be a Coulee Region task force developed in relation to internet bullying-meeting to occur on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm at Longfellow school. To reserve your spot-log onto [crciptf.com](http://crciptf.com)
- G. OUTREACH-report given by Rene. Families are encouraged to give feedback on their thoughts and experiences at CM, which would be used for the new CM brochure. Everyone is encouraged to recruit children/families to attend the open house and explore CM.

H. FRANKLIN/ROOSEVELT PTO- Dawn Comeau reported that on January 20, there is a family fun reading night from 6-7:30pm at Franklin. The evening is to promote the importance reading.

I. NEW BUSINESS: Pete Yocum shared his insight into the possible move of the adolescent program to Lincoln. His concerns include that the move from Roosevelt does not follow the true Montessori philosophy of having all students together in order to have older role models. Will moving the program out of the Roosevelt building deteriorate what CM has to offer? Pete stated that CM is unique and we need to stay that way. Numerous thoughts were shared and discussion ensued on the possible future of the adolescent program.

RECOMMEND TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING: Folk Dance Financial Support

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 7:40PM

## **Coulee Montessori SET Checking Report**

**January 13, 2011**

Beginning Balance	<b>\$3,458.87</b>
Paid Out:	
Egg roll reimbursement	\$432.38
BFNYE raffle basket	\$50.07
	<b>\$482.45</b>
Deposits:	
Coffee Orders	\$48.00
Egg Roll Income	---
	<b>\$48.00</b>
Ending Balance	<b>\$3,024.42</b>
<i>Gina's Classroom</i>	
<i>Balance</i>	<i>\$224.55</i>

Total Checking Balance

**\$3,248.97**