

Coulee Montessori Governance Board Minutes

October 22, 2015, 5:30 p.m.

Coulee Montessori / Northside LMC

Call to order - 5:35 p.m.

Attendance: Ann Epstein, Bennett Myers, Michelle Sulentic, , Roger Staffaroni, Becky Misch, Fern Neisius, Rene Jacobs-Guentner, Michelle Cook

Absent members: Ty Striebel, Melissa Murray, Laura Huber

Guests in attendance/Public Comment: Anne Seehafer (Grow La Crosse); Rachel Hanson Myers (Grow); Kelly Mayer (Northside clinic president); Regan Mueller (NS PTO and clinic member); Martin Nelson (Children's House parent)

Secretary's Report: *Motion* to approve minutes for prior two meetings (which were pending completion of written treasurer reports). Motion approved (U).

Treasurer's report: Filling in some back reports for prior months going back to April 2015: past reporting on the past checkbook register vs bank statement. Becky has now reconciled.

Beginning balance \$7895.31; Current balance \$7,375.

Motion to approve Treasurer report. Approved (U)

Focus on student work: Children's House – what does Unity Day mean to us. Children practicing numbers via lunch payment number pad

Education Committee: Paul Epstein scheduled for two-day visit as teacher consultant Dec. 10 and 11.

Observes each teacher and provides individual feedback where possible, and group feedback; similar process with administrators. Staff have been cleared for afternoon of Dec. 11. Funding \$500 from NS; \$700 from District.

Tabled motion from last meeting: pay remaining \$1200 of fee after confirmation of these contributions.

Motion: for Board to pay for remaining \$1200 (tabled from prior meeting). Approved (U w/ 1 A)

New business:

Northside Neighborhood Clinic (Regan).

Clinic is up and running with various volunteers and supporters, esp. Dr. Ted Thompson. NNC is a 501(c)(3) with involvement from many stakeholders. Clinic space at the school building with direct outside access; NNC is a tenant of the district. Services include wellness checks, education; triage, referrals, rapid strep test.

Grow La Crosse (Anne Seehafer).

Grow La Crosse started as a parent effort at State Road to improve student nutrition. School gardens started as a means toward improving nutrition. Our research showed that community gardens rely on having a paid coordinator. First grant was through Transform Wisconsin. We found our first garden coordinator and operated as an unofficial board. We developed the lessons – three in fall, three in spring, with raised garden beds. Did not rely on teacher for lesson planning. Year 2: made hoop house at State Road, expanded to Hamilton / SOTA I. Children responded well to growing and trying vegetables. SOTA provided initial PTO contribution because Hamilton did not have an active PTO.

Year 3 (2014-15): connected with Deep Roots Farm, became 501(c)(3), shifted mission toward connecting children with nature through farming. CMAP does more intensive farming with us. 1000 kids have come through Grow La Crosse this year. Our instructors (summer camp, field trips) are well qualified, have masters degrees and have well developed lessons for kids. Rachel Hanson Myers is an employee. Currently 7 employees, trying to hire executive director.

Expansion / CM involvement. District approval was for programs with two schools as a trial. CM has applied to join for subsequent years. Some programs are fee-based and sustainable. School programs have relied on initial grants, but self-funding becomes necessary over time. Most of this comes from PTOs. Typically shared fundraiser between Grow and PTO, e.g. chip shop.

We have a county grant for \$1k and just wrote a \$2k Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation. Other grants pending, one for \$5500.

Size/configuration mostly per Laura: 10 raised garden beds (2'x4') that roll in and out of building. Garden shed and grow carts. Hiring Coulee Region Ecoscapes.

Beds will be built from black locust (sustainable wood). \$170/bed. Judd Steinback is donating 5 of them.

Asking donation for this year for ongoing expenses.

State Road pays \$1300-1800

SOTA pays \$1000 for SOTA/Hamilton

Asking Northside for \$500 this year, \$1000 in future years.

Asking \$1000 for CM this year. Grow's budget year is Jan-Dec. Requesting funds for January (flexible)

We will be starting installing gardens in spring 2016 with 4th and 5th grade (NS); all grades (CM)

Lessons will be offered by Grow and teachers will sign up their classes (and are not required to do so).

Each child will receive something from the garden 3x in fall, 3x in spring

Summer lessons will be given and NS with Y programs

Gardens will typically have yearly theme, e.g. salsa garden, snacks: tomatoes, red peppers, cucumbers, asparagus, kale, basil, lettuces / greens

Further questions to annesehafer@gmail.com, also see growlacrosse.org

Principal Murray's Report:

No report; Melissa's email states that her report will follow.

Principal Huber's Report:

Discussion re report submitted by Laura: report addresses access to Title I funds. Requirement is 50% free/reduced, and CM elementary is well above 50%. However, with CMAP included, it is 41%. How to further investigate? Would it require separate charters to qualify?

Segue (as further questions for Laura) to specialty teachers and inconsistency as teachers change year to year and are divided between buildings.

Fund Raising Committee - Erin

Met earlier this week. Plans for Culvers and Barnes and Noble days, fruit sales for spring. Early planning for Soup Supper and donations. Roughly, previous year proceeds from soup supper has been \$1000, silent auction \$2800.

Meetings are 3rd Monday, 6pm, Java Vino (usually at back room)

Upcoming meeting dates: 11/16, 12/21.

Outreach Committee - Michelle

T-shirts had a color misprint but they will be finished at end of week. Total t-shirt profit is now \$358.50.

Rotary Lights. Work day Sun. Nov. 1, 11am – 2pm. Will probably do a float.

New Business

January Montessori Teachers requesting funding for January conference. Early bird \$75/teacher if paid by Dec 12. @ 10 teachers = 750. For any CM teachers who cannot attend, offer to specialists.

Motion: reserve \$750 for conference registrations for CM teachers. For anyone who does not use these funds, they would have option to apply their \$75 toward Chicago Montessori conference. Any left over after that can be offered to CM specialists. Approved (U)

Motion: reserve \$225 for parent scholarships. How we allocate TBD at November meeting. Approved (U)

Parent scholarships – last year we had one full, two partial. Awarded via drawing.

Promoting to parents:

Skylert

Facebook event

Event cards – distribute through school office

Bennett will communicate with Anne about cards and facebook event (also Dec. 10 parent night)

Facebook group: Becky and Fern to revitalize CM Elementary Facebook page

Announcements: none

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.