

School Effectiveness Team Meeting notes, 1/21/2020

Nathan Warnberg, Secretary

In Attendance

Quorum is present (at least 2/3 of the board members and one teacher)

- Brian Merkey (President)
- Carol Powell (Vice President)
- Nell Saunders-Scott (Treasurer)
- Nathan Warnberg (Secretary)
- Amanda Luedtke
- Kraig McCoy
- Amy Sloan
- Alyssa Boardman
- Laura Huber (CM Principal)
- Melissa Murray (CMAP Principal)
- Laura Carlson (CMAP)
- Mariah Bigelow (CM)
- Josh Shively
- Guests
 - Larry McMahan

Abbreviations

- School Effectiveness Team (SET)
- La Crosse Montessori Pre-School (LMP)
- Coulee Montessori (CM), grades K - 5
- Coulee Montessori Adolescent Program (CMAP), grades 6 - 8
- Children's House (CH), Kindergarten
- Elementary One (E1), grades 1 - 3
- Elementary Two (E2), grades 4 -5
- North Side Elementary (NS)

Call to order

- Meeting called to order at 5:33 pm by President Brian Merkey.
- Introductions
- Approval of agenda/additions

Presentations of student work

- Josh Shively (E2)
 - 4th grade work
 - multiples and factors with colors
 - identify and describe patterns
 - prime sieve and factorization
 - Math facts for 1 – 100 and factor trees
 - 5th grade work
 - hominid ancestry back 7 million years
 - choose an ancestor, draw using scaling and grids in conjunction with art teacher
 - follow fossil evidence to make maps of the hominid ‘colonization’ of earth
 - investigated area formulas for quadrilaterals and triangles
 - moving to circles
- Mariah Bigelow (E2)
 - Human growth and development
 - Moving into botany
 - Will take any house plants that we can provide so kids can propagate
 - Awarded Sierra Club and Seed Savers grants to help supplement their botany lessons

Officer Reports

Secretary’s Report (Nathan)

- Nell moved, Brian seconded to approve October and November minutes without edits. Unanimous.

Principal’s Report

- Laura Huber
 - *Lost community learning grant that allowed partnering with BGC to provide tutoring
 - This has left BGC on it’s own to provide tutoring for the Fall semester
 - Fund 80 from district has been established to bolster BGC tutoring, provides tutoring for Summit, Northside, CM and Northwoods
 - Small group tutoring being developed by retired teacher Virginia Nelson
 - There was concern that freshman and sophmores (college level) in the BGC program are not trained to work with elementary students so they will now be paired with a school staffer.

- Solicit for grants for next year's funding
 - *Summer school offerings will be changing, more targeted (notice sent in report card)
 - Provide orientation for transition to CM (group 1)
 - Provide more practice to students who could benefit from more practice with Montessori materials (group 2)
 - If students do not fall into these categories, they will need to seek out other opportunities
 - Reason for switch was the summer program was being filled with students that didn't really need the extra attention and was taking away from those who could have benefitted more from the extra attention.
 - It basically boiled down to the fact that they had limited resources and wanted to target specific groups of students, it was a decision that mostly came from the teachers (which is great).
 - Now 2 weeks long versus 4 weeks long, again, limited resources.
 - Teachers make final decision, if necessary, about which students will participate.
 - *Discussion of Isthmus Charter School in Madison
 - Their charter is through DPI (department of public instruction, not University or City) and has recently shifted from private to public, this is when the tensions started.
 - There is a tense relationship with the Madison Metropolitan School District because the charter takes money away from the district
 - This makes sense, it is brand new, their school board has much more power than SET
 - They reached out to us to see how we are handling things
 - We (CM) have never really had this type of relationship with our district
- Melissa Murray
 - CMAP has had enrollment issues, only 22 students for 6,7 and 8 th grades.
 - It has been an annual issue (for the last few years) where E2 students are not transferring to CMAP.
 - 10 families visited the open house on November 12, the information was sent to every 5th grader in the district.
 - Doing a second open house on February 25th, asking us to contact E2 families to let us know
 - We should advertise about CMAP at all of our events.
 - Do we even want CMAP as parents, if not it is not fair to Nine Dodge and Laura Carlson.
 - Can we keep 6th graders at CM? No, not enough space.
 - If we don't want it, how can we exit gracefully?
 - How can we dispel the myths and misunderstandings about charter schools (charter kids CAN do sports and other extra curriculums)?
 - We need direct, intentional marketing on behalf of SET to get the numbers up.

- Why aren't students/parents choosing CMAP?
- Are there past issues and rumors floating around about CMAP?
- Are there too many good options in LSD - LaCrosse Design Institute, SOTA II, etc.
- When Laura got here there were lots of behavior issues, this has gone down dramatically in the last several years. Maybe there is some lingering misinformation about this?
- Why aren't SET parents sending their kids to CMAP?
- Can we send out some sort of questionnaire about why parents/students are not choosing CMAP?
- There was a waiting list 2 years ago, what happened 2 years ago?
- Slide show about CMAP during Soup/Supper?
- CMAP informational table during Soup/Supper?
- Can CMAP make a sign for their Soup/Supper bake sale table with no abbreviations?
- Give CMAP students name tags to show off the collaboration, we want to enhance our public collaboration.
- Many people are not even aware that CMAP exists (even some CM families).
- Survey families that have chosen not to attend CMAP.
- Advertised for CMAP open house on February 25th during the Soup/Supper?
- Hand out a survey at Soup/Supper.
- Hand out a survey at educational night.
- Make the survey anonymous.
- Make a QR code for the survey at the ticket table for Soup/Supper?
- Sign-up for CMAP right at the table where the bake sale is.
- Don't always abbreviate CMAP in advertising.
- More visits between CMAP and CM.
- Our role is to make sure enrollments are strong
- Need to continue with our enrollment committees

Treasurers report (Nell)

- Read-a-thon made \$1405
- \$6525 is our current operating balance
- Reminder for teachers to spend funds
- Thank-you card for Sara

Committee Updates

Finance Committee (Nell,Kraig,Brian)

- No Report

Fundraising (Amanda)

- Original works might not happen because of a new art teacher, Amanda needs the new art teachers email to contact her, Mariah or Josh will get this to Amanda.
- E2 is doing a plant sale

Outreach (Nell,Amy,Carol)

- Beth needs tote bags (reusable grocery bags) for community resource room, put this in the newsletter
- Spring picnic has been moved to Monday, May 11
- Is there an online events calendar for the La Crosse area? Nell has experience with this and can get the information to who needs it.
- Question: Have we ever advertised our parent ed nights via 'Coulee Parenting' or 'Explore La Crosse?'

Education (Alyssa)

- No Report

District Wide Parents (Nathan, Nell)

- No Report

Continuing Business

Enrollment Workgroup Updates

- See Principal's report

Charter Renewal Updates

- No Report

Montessori Conference Reflections

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Soup/Supper Updates (Amanda)

- Funding request of \$150 for kids table, other items to round out baskets.
- We need to quickly set up online soup/supper meal tickets.
- Can we send kids home with a packet of tickets to sell? Probably too late for that.
- We are asking a lot of parents: buy something for the raffle, buy tickets, provide soup, buy raffle tickets.
- Maybe we can appeal to our friends for the soup/supper experience by sending kids home with tickets?
- Decision: get set up with online account for pre-purchased meals, Nell will set it up.
- Create FaceBook event, Melissa Murray has not seen it. It has supposedly gone out already but the fact that Melissa has not seen it means it has not been widely shared.
- Need a larger group for the Soup/Supper committee: soliciting for raffle, gathering for raffle, organize food, organize volunteers, organize funding
- Invite alums?
- We are organizing items the weekend before soup/supper this time around
- Bryan moves to \$150 for incidentals for Soup/Supper, seconded by Nathan, unanimous approval.

Spring Parent Night Planning (Alyssa)

- ‘Educating for Peace’ and ‘Bringing Montessori into the Home’ were the top two picks by parents based on a survey.
- Alyssa will contact Anne Epstein to see which topic is better/easier to present.
- Alyssa will take care of child enrichment.
- March 26 is the date.

New Business

School Improvement Plan

- No Report

Montessori Week, Feb 23 - 29

- Week after Soup/Supper. Can we email ‘What Montessori means to Teachers,’ we did this last year. Maybe we can get perspectives from students, teachers and parents. Get representatives from E1, E2 and CMAP. Brian will reach out to some of them to see if he can get some responses.

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Madison Charter School Discussion

- No Report

Summer School

- No Report

Funding Request for Madison Trip

- This will be coming up in the next meeting or two, around \$1,000.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Brian, Seconded by Nathan at 7:28pm, passed unanimously.