

School Effectiveness Team Meeting notes, 2/25/2020

Nathan Warnberg, Secretary

In Attendance

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

- Brian Merkey (President)
- Nell Saunders-Scott (Treasurer)
- Nathan Warnberg (Secretary)
- Amanda Luedtke
- Kraig McCoy
- Beth Crammond
- Alison Prohn (E1,CM)
- Alyssa Boardman
- Laura Huber (CM Principal)
- Mariah Bigelow (E2, CM)
- Guests
 - Larry McMahon
 - Reagan Mueller (sp?)
 - Danielle

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)
- Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
- Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

Call to order

- Meeting called to order at 5:32 pm by President Brian Merkey.
- Introductions
- Approval of agenda/additions: Reagan Mueller will present about REAL Girls funding

Public Comments/Guests

- Solicitation by Reagan Mueller: Fifth year of REAL Girls, SET has funded \$300 every year
- Costs \$50 per participant with no charge to students, all privately funded
- Montessori girls make up about 1/3 of participants
- Goal is 50 girls from 4th and 5th grade, this year added some 3rd graders since numbers were down.
- Motion to approve \$300 for REAL girls by Amanda, seconded by Nell, unanimous approval
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- Larry McMahon: April meeting is double booked, we will meet in a classroom

Presentations of student work

- Kelcey Mossholder (CH)
 - Tracing continents and flags and words
- Alison Prohn (E1)
 - Land and water forms booklets
 - Informational writing by choosing an animal
 - Looking at Central states and moving to Western states
- Mariah Bigelow (E2)
 - Informative writing
 - 4th graders are working on biomes
 - 5th graders are working on the timeline of humanity
 - 4th - Looking at the layers of the atmosphere, greenhouse gases and pollution
 - 5th - Human growth and development, lots of great questions and good conversations, moving onto botany now
 - Plant sale is May 9th, changed from May 1st since 5th graders will be gone. Volunteers are needed.

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report (Nathan)

- Behind with meeting minutes, will approve January and February at next meeting

Principal's Report

- Melissa Murray
 - No Report
- Laura Huber
 - E2 is ice fishing
 - E1 is working on zoology
 - CH is solar system and flags
 - Enrollment numbers will change a lot but currently: E1 69/71 spots filled, E2, 47/50 spots filled, CH 21/24 in kinder and 10/12 pre school. These numbers are strong, Laura has a good feeling about CM.
 - Need summer school to get new students familiar with Montessori specific works, scheduled for the last two weeks of July.
 - Forms for summer school will be distributed during conferences.
 - Lunch time continues to be a challenge. Laura is trying to be present during lunch for visibility. Lots of conversations about lunch time with parents, teachers and staff.
 - Now there is music playing and if the students cannot hear the music then they are probably too loud.
 - Is 30 minutes too long? LOTS of push back when that number is reduced. Teachers need 30 minutes. Parent volunteers could help.
 - Some Montessori teachers (at other schools) eat with students in small groups.

Treasurers report (Nell)

- \$8753 is the operating balance
- Reminder that teachers should submit reimbursements
- Brian moves to approve \$75 to fund Dad's night, Nathan seconds, unanimous approval.

Continuing Business

Enrollment Updates (Brian)

- Elementary numbers look good (see Principal's report)
- Not sure about CMAP numbers

Charter Renewal Updates (Brian and Laura)

- The state changed some of the paperwork needed for renewal.
- Laura reworked our old chart into the new DPI format.
- Met with Stacy Everson from the district (with Alyssa Boardman) to make sure everything was in order.
- Cannot give preference to students with prior Montessori experience, by state law, but can still give preference to siblings. This means we cannot prefer LMP students.
- Next step is to tighten up bylaws and operational audit

Bylaws revision

- Brian motions to change bylaws to make our fiscal year January 1st to December 31, seconded by Nell. Unanimous approval.

Soup/Supper debrief

- Many variables changed and were strikes against us: bad weather, raffle, non-school day
- Feedback from one parent was that they did not like that it was not on a school day.
- One parent said they really liked the raffle
- We had PLENTY of soup
- We did not make as much money because it was not attended.
- Kids table made half as much
- 130 meals sold this year (\$650), raffle was \$1550
- Last year was \$2281 for the silent auction last year. So this years raffle made %68 of last years silent auction.
- The raffle was easier to implement though
- Maybe next year have a live thermometer to track the funds to give context about what the money is being used for. Like 5 raffle tickets funds one student on a bus.
- Maybe have it later in the year, like after taxes? Better weather, less illness, etc.
- Can we give each student a free raffle ticket?
- Maybe make a flyer to send home at the end of the year describing what the SET funds do.

50:27

Spring Parent Night Planning (Alyssa)

- Thursday, March 26 - Bringing Montessori into the Home
- Mix in some Teaching for Peace
- Child enrichment will use a classroom (child care)
- Walking tacos for food
- Meal 5:30 - 6:00pm, Event 6:00 - 7:00pm
- Talk to Denise about reserving the room
- Move to approve \$150 for parent ed night by Nell, Seconded by Brian, passed unanimously

New Business

Montessori Week Meal

- Nell moved to approve \$150 to fund teacher appreciation for Montessori week, seconded by Nathan - at this point we did not have a quorum, we retroactively approved this via email vote.

Meal for Conferences

- Thursday, March 12th
- Brian will communicate with NS about this

Spring fundraiser plans (Amanda, Mariah)

- Plants will be lead by Mariah
- Original works will be led by Amanda

School Improvement plan discussion

- How can SET support the School Improvement Plan (SIP)
- Can we use the SIP to make SET goals for the year

Committee Updates

Finance Committee (Nell, Kraig, Brian)

- See bylaw update item

Fundraising (Amanda)

- See spring fundraising item

Outreach (Nell,Amy,Carol)

- No Report

Education (Alyssa)

- See Spring Education nigh discussion

District Wide Parents (Nathan, Nell)

- Dress code is being updated in the district.
- They are getting lots of feedback and doing their due diligence
- ‘No Small Matter’ documentary about supporting early childhood education.

CMAP

- We did not follow through with many of the ideas from the last meeting about marketing for CMAP at Soup/Supper.
- We need to be more mindful of CMAP.
- Maybe a lack of communication/collaboration between SET and CMAP?
- We seem disconnected from them.

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