

School Effectiveness Team Meeting notes, 4/21/2020

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
- Amy Sloan
- Beth Crammond
- Laura Huber (CM Principal)
- Melissa Murray (CMAP Principal)
- Laura Carlson (CMAP)
- Mariah Bigelow (CM)
- Jenny Dellenbach (CM)
- Michelle Cook (CM)
- Nicole Rislow (CM)
- Guests
 - None

Abbreviations

- School Effectiveness Team (SET)
- La Crosse Montessori Pre-School (LMP)
- Coulee Montessori (CM), grades 4K - 5
- Coulee Montessori Adolescent Program (CMAP), grades 6 - 8
- Children's House (CH), 4K and 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 5:34pm by President Brian Merkey.
- Introductions
- Approval of agenda/additions

Public Comments/Guests

- Thanks from SET to staff and faculty, great, regular communication
- Laura doing muffins has been great

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report (Nathan)

- Nell moved to approve and Amanda seconds January and February minutes, passes unanimously

Principal's Report

- Melissa Murray
 - Reached out to students at the end of March to students that had not engaged (for whole school).
 - They will be reaching out again to students that have had very little engagement. CMAP only has one child in this situation.
 - Flip Grid has been working great.
 - District is working on one-way video so teachers can teach without interruptions.
 - Email is too hard because there is so much lag time after watching the videos.
 - Worried about holding synchronous meeting times, that makes it hard if bandwidth is low.
 - Teach the lesson, record the lesson with any students that can make it and then post the lesson so students that missed it can watch and it feels more real.
 - Two staff at CMAP are staying on, 10 sixth grade students who applied this year through choice and charter, sent out 8 acceptance, only confirmations from 4 parents. Two of these kids are from the open house. This is a good number.
 - Hoping that the small E2 class is what caused the low enrollment was a fluke.
- Laura Huber
 - Going to allowed to do small group and one-on-one video meetings with children at the Elementary level.
 - Enrollment is going well, no big changes.
 - Kelcey Mossholder is moving, so we need a new Children's House. teacher. Wants feedback from SET about what we are looking for.
 - Appreciates the generous donation from SET, \$1500. This is for small grants for families, e.g. pay a light bill, pay rent, pay a car repair bill so parent can get to work.
 - \$117 food bags per week (every Wednesday), Beth is a rock-star.
 - Have enough funding to provide this for the rest of the school year.
 - They have enough volunteers at the school.

Treasurers report (Nell)

- Motion to approve teacher appreciation funding request of \$300 by Brian, second by Amy, passes unanimously.
- Marrujo memorial (for trees) funding request of less than \$75, no vote needed. Brian will reach out to Josh.
- Brian moves to approve treasurers report, second by Amanda, approved unanimously.

Specific Business

Virtual School Check-in

- Jenny
 - Most of her class has been checking in on Seesaw.
 - Things are going as well as can be expected.
- Michelle
 - Going well in terms of learning and kids using Seesaw.
 - All students are participating which is great.
 - Has been open and reached out to parents to let her know if there is anything they need.
 - Very responsive to emails.
 - Weekly Monday check-in.
 - Has switched from review to pursuing ELO (expected learning outcomes), i.e. moving forward with curriculum.
- Nicole
 - Has been using Seesaw for morning meetings
 - Has virtual lessons from time to time
 - Getting a sense that students are wanting more Seesaw based learning
 - Thanks to parents for helping support the children's learning as well
- Laura
 - Again, most students are engaging
 - Has been using video assignments
 - Online discussions are going well
 - Social assignments are going better than written assignments
 - Have been gettin very creative with assignments

2020/21 Enrollment Updates

- See Principal's Report

2020/2021 Staffing Updates

- Kelcey Mossholder is leaving. We have asked applicants to do an interview and do a teaching demonstration. COVID-19 will not allow for this so we are looking at our process.
- Going to mirror the principal hiring process.
 - Ask stakeholders for input
 - Montessori teachers and list of questions to find priorities
 - Montessori parents and list of questions.
 - What are we (parents) looking for in an ideal Children's House candidate:
 - * Someone who loves children
 - * Radical empathy
 - * Gentle and nurturing
 - * Peaceful, calm demeanor
 - * Staff are comfortable with the hire
 - * Montessori trained or strong interest in training
 - * Curriculum management skills and organizational skills
 - * We want Nikki to be involved and be comfortable because she has been doing so much extra work and training because of the many CH teachers.
 - * Mutual respect for the children
 - * Prioritizing social and emotional qualities over academics
 - * What has been their experience with the COVID-19 situation?
 - * How do you deal with a preschooler who runs out of the building on the first day of classes.
 - * What is their training/background in helping children navigate trauma?
 - * Something about dealing with a noisy lunchroom?
 - * How do they help a child that does not participate?
 - * Name a time at school that you had to break a rule and why?
 - * How do they respond to failure/setbacks and how do they normalize failures/setbacks with students?
 - The position will go external soon (in one or two days) and the posting will be open for ten days.
 - Laura will communicate with us more as the interview process proceeds.
 - Interviews will be the week of May 4.

Charter Renewal Update

- Stacey Everson took it to the board last week, got a note today that it has been approved.
- Laura will get more details and the final papers to Brian.

Spring fundraiser updates

- Original works (Amanda) - they have received the order but do not have a timeline, they will contact Amanda when the order is ready
- Plant sale (Mariah) - all the plants are at Mariah's House, her thought is to keep the house plants over the Summer and run the plant sale in the Fall. Not sure about where the plant pots are but Mariah will reach out and see if she can figure anything out.
- Mariah has bean, pea, carrot and beet seedlings that she is getting rid of.

Memorial for Marrujo family

- See Treasurer's Report.

SET membership and officers for 2020/2021 school year

- Brian will send out a Google doc about being SET members next year.
- We should send out a blast to the parents, make sure the language is not exclusive.

Committee Updates

Finance Committee (Nell, Kraig, Brian)

- No Report

Fundraising (Amanda)

- See Spring Fundraiser Update item

Outreach (Nell, Amy, Carol)

- No Report

Education (Alyssa)

- No Report

District Wide Parents (Nathan, Nell)

- No Report

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Brian, Seconded by Nathan at 7:04pm, passed unanimously.