

# School Effectiveness Team Meeting notes, 10/20/2020

Nathan Warnberg, Secretary

## In Attendance

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

- Brian Merkey (Acting President)
- Nell Saunders-Scott (Treasurer)
- Nathan Warnberg (Secretary)
- Amy Merkey
- Beth Crammond
- Laura Huber (CM Principal)
- Melissa Murray (CMAP Principal)
- Mariah Bigelow (CM)
- Michele Cook (CM)
- Sara Jorgensen (CM)
- Guests
  - Barbara Jo

## Abbreviations

- School Effectiveness Team (SET)
- 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)
- CRVA (Coulee Region Virtual Academy)

## Call to order

- Meeting called to order at 5:39pm by Acting President Brian Merkey via Zoom.
- Introductions
- Approval of agenda/additions

## **Officer Reports**

### **Secretary's Report**

- Brian moves to approve the 9/15/2020 minutes as is, Nell seconds, passes unanimously.

### **Principal's Report**

- Laura Huber (CM Principal)
  - Elementary will open up on Monday is a concern for all
  - Dr. Engel, and other leadership members, will be making a decision tomorrow based on the Harvard Model
  - Teachers say that things are going as well as can be expected. Trying to be very mindful of the work that they are providing students and not overwhelming families.
  - Sends a thank-you to the parents as well.
- Melissa Murray (CMAP Principal)
  - They are in the same boat as the Elementary school
  - There are too many students for Nine to manage by herself, so we are going to have to switch to A day and B day students for safety and an abundance of caution.
  - CMAP and SOTA II have been working well together to split up the students in a thoughtful and mindful way.
  - The classroom space is just too big to make sure masks stay on and physical distancing is observed.
  - CMAP is still planning on having Wednesday as an independent learning day (along with the rest of the school) so custodians can do a deep cleaning on Wednesday.
  - Sends a thank-you to the parents as well.

### **Treasurers report**

- Only request was under \$75 for embroidery request by Mariah. No need to vote for approval.

## **Specific Business**

### **Shannon Rochester Memorial**

- Decide SET donation
- Consider donating to a Go-Fund-Me to help with funeral expenses
- Josh has the corresponding student, we will reach out to him and see if he has any ideas

## **Fundraising Discussion**

- Read-A-Thon, redesign and revamp, usually happens in November around Thanksgiving break, record reading minutes outside of school hours, pledges from parents and grandparents etc.
- Advertise for Read-A-Thon on our Square site, they can make comments on their donations like 'For Read-A-Thon.'
- Pictures of kids reading at home or us reading to them (send them to Nell and/or Sara)
- We should send flyers via mail, will contact Annika
- Advertise in the newsletter as well (Nell will take care of this)
- Send more ideas to Sara Jorgensen
- Merchandise updates - email went out today, already a couple of hits.
- Merchandise sales are open until October 30.
- There is a corresponding square site that Nell set up.

## **Teacher Support**

- Snacks for teachers
- Nell moves to approve \$100 request for teacher appreciation snacks next week, second by Brian, passes unanimously.

## **Outreach Discussion**

- We typically do a face-to-face outreach night where interested parents come to CM and there is a sort of showcase.
- We can drop off a stack of brochures at local preschools, Laura Huber can check and see if we need an update.
- Can we get them to the Library or Sprouts or YMCA or BGC or other daycare and preschool? Maybe switch to a poster? Make sure we update the brochures.
- District office is tasked with translating everything into Hmong (or Spanish). We should look into that.
- Melissa has a brochure for CMAP that is up to date, created by Nick Marcou.
- Lots of misinformation about the price of Charter schools, in particular, many parents think that Coulee Montessori, for example, costs parents extra money and it does not.
- There is an incentive to the school district for parents to identify a school and pedagogy that fits with their student to make, for example, budgeting and staff
- Laura Huber will invite supervisor of preschools to one of our upcoming meetings so we can try and get them to use their platform to help us advertise.

- Our efforts at recruiting typically feel piecemeal when we are trying to reach all of institutions where the district should have access to. Can we use the districts platform to help our efforts?
- Instead of having our students going to visit from CMAP vs CM (or vice versa), we could maybe have the students make videos to tell other students about their great school?

## **SET Role**

- Clarify SET's administrative vs PTO responsibilities
- Consider talking to Dr. Engel (district superintendent) about CM and CMAP, our history and our strengths
- In the past, SET has been more vocal about staffing needs and expansion. They had been stronger advocates with Laura Huber and Melissa Murray and more powerful administrators.
- Maybe we just need to decide what we want SET to be.
- Do we want more or less power?
- Do we want more or fewer responsibilities?
- We might need to set our priorities at the beginning of the year and prioritize them.
- Why do we need a SET, what is our mission?

## **Meeting with Dr. Engel**

- Teachers and administrators should be part of the presentation.
- We should be communicating to him how we are unique and how we are an asset.
- He will do his homework.
- You have to tell him things that he does not know.
- Why a charter? Talk about curriculum, talk about diversity, talk about the philosophy, talk about the Universality of the ideas
- Get the CM presentation from Josh to will tweak it.
- Administrators and teachers need to be involved
- What does he see as our role, how can we help?
- Wisconsin Montessori Association for some advocacy resources <https://www.wisconsinmontessori.org/advocacy/>

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Brian, seconded by Nell at 7:10pm, passes unanimously.