

School Effectiveness Team Meeting notes, 4/20/2021

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)
- Bard Silbaugh
- Deana Maynard
- Amy Merkey
- Nicole Rislow (CM)
- Laura Huber (CM Principal)
- Melissa Murray (CMAP Principal)
- Mariah Bigelow (CM)
- Michelle Cook (CM)
- Guests
 - Melissa Leske
 - Trina T.
 - Beth Hartung
 - Willie Bittner
 - Anders
 - Kim Shively

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 5:34 pm by Amy Merkey
- Introductions
- Approval of agenda/additions

Community Garden Grant - Beth Hartung

- Grant to create school/community garden
- Struggled to find a location but ended up with 6 beds on the Charles Street side of CM/NS school
- 6' x 4' cinder block beds, 6 beds, a couple of barrels for tomatoes
- Logan High School football team is going to be constructing the beds
- Eventually want to do a compost pile on the NE side of the parking lot
- Eventually, also a 'garden shed'
- Plan to have trellises for each bed
- Plan on having a table eventually to clean vegetables
- Hope to begin planting by mid-May
- We did discover that Kane Street garden is open to our students if we are willing to expand the program
- Media will be there on Thursday!!

Presentations of student work

- Michele Cook (E1)
 - NA
- Mariah Bigelow (E2)
 - NA
- Nicole Rislow (CH)
 - NA

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report

- Amy moved, Nathan seconded to approve March 2021 minutes without edits. Passed unanimously.

Principal's Report

- Laura Huber
 - Forward testing has started
 - Virtual open house coming up
 - Projected to go down one E1 room section so working on the process of re-organizing the classrooms. Not for sure but will know for sure on May 1.
 - Summer school - may not have enough interest to run CH and E2 - we will know more on May 1
- Melissa Murray
 - Forward testing has started
 - State pulled writing component this year
 - Nine has started walking field trips - UWL, Library, parks, etc.

Treasurers report (Nell)

- Mariah made a request for 'graduating' 3rd and 5th graders for \$150 - Nell moves to approve the request, Nathan seconds. Passed unanimously.
- Amy moves to approve the treasurers report, Nathan seconds. Passed unanimously.
- Merchandise sales have come in, we will be getting the bill from On Three soon and merch will be getting out to parents

Specific Business

CM/NS Principal hiring

- Nicki Pope is going to be the new principal - special ed background, 10 years as an admin
- She took a class from Laura Huber and Laura really likes her
- She will be here on Thursday all day
- She is highly approachable
- Invite her to one of our meetings
- She has six children
- Amy was really impressed with her during the interview process
- Mariah is very happy with her
- Michele thinks she will be open to learning about the Montessori approach
- Amy will reach out and have her come to our next meeting, the final meeting of the year

CMAP staffing

- Still have a staffing issue at CMAP when Laura Carlson left late last year - then numbers did not go up so could not justify a hire
- We have hired a temporary TA (Mel Hanson) to help out Nine.
- There are 27 kids, 3 grades - Melissa did not feel comfortable with just one person in the room but now we always have two staff members in the room
- In the process of hiring a new orchestra director for CMAP/Lincoln - this will affect CMAP strings students
- Hired a new Art Teacher (hired Hannah Safner (sp)) - this will likely affect Montessori art
- If we make a move to hire a Laura Carlson replacement Melissa will reach out to us
- Melissa is going to push for keeping the TA next year to help out Nine if numbers do not go up

Enrollment updates

- Our numbers were very much affected by the COVID
- At this point we have 21 – 23 students at the CMAP level, we usually have 30 – 42 kids so these numbers are way down
- Enrollment is down in general across the district but hard to put our low numbers into context
- It would be nice to put the declining enrollment into some more context - the district has declined by \approx 1400 students overall in the last few year - CM/NS lost \approx 100 students this year and 20 of them were from CM

Virtual open house

- Virtual open house for charter schools - combined lots of different charter schools into one big event so parents can compare them on the spot - CRVA, CM, CMAP, SOTA
- Nell will represent CM
- Mariah will be there for CM
- CMAP parent needed - Barb Silbaugh will represent
- Nine will be there to represent CMAP

Food Truck Fundraiser - Monkey Business

- May 17th, picnic from 2 – 6pm, gives parents enough time to grab something before and to come back after pick-up
- Will drop the prices to make it more affordable
- We can pull the food truck right into the playground area, but there might be construction
- Teachers can send home some reminders with students

Ride share discussion

- A handful of families are concerned about long bus rides to get to CM
- Wondering if we can organize a ride share, mostly for pick-ups
- Mostly parents from the south side
- There is also an issue with affording the after school Y-care
- After school BGC programs have also caused some concerns with parents
- Can we share a google sheet - name, what they are looking for, phone number??
- We should have 'Can give a ride' and a 'Needs a ride' column
- Brian will create a Google Sheet using our SET account

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Amy, seconded by Nell at 7:00pm. Passed unanimously.