

Coulee Montessori SET Minutes

January 16, 2024 5:30pm @ Coulee Montessori/Northside Library

IN ATTENDANCE (Board Roster):

Kim Shively Alexis Brandow Cami Fuller Alex Hiller
Deanna Maynard Amy Merkey Kathryn Wiegrefe Mariah Bigelow
Sarah Bradle

All present at meeting except: Sara Horstman and Katie/Willie Bittner

Other attendees: Jenna Anfang (community coordinator), Ms Jenny (E1 teacher), Ms Alison (Children's House teacher)

CALL TO ORDER

Public Comment - None scheduled

GOVERNANCE TOPICS

School performance/sharing student work – Staff

-Childrens House finished up learning about South America—animals, plants, landmarks, biomes.

-E1 classes are starting land and water forms. They are making a book and using clay to make models. 2nd graders are working on the Timeline of Life, which is a huge project. They enjoy learning about dinosaurs and prehistoric animals. 3rd graders are doing Clock of the Eras, learning about the beginning of the earth's presence and how old the earth was before humans were on it. E1 is still feeling the benefits of smaller classes. It's wonderful and much more effective.

-E2 does the same lessons as E1 but in more detail.

-Greenhouse will be built in March or April depending on weather. Kids are making lots of newspaper cups to prepare for vegetables. They put them in categories to see when they can start planting based on what kind of plant it is. They will start botany lessons in February. There was a \$100 donation from a member of the conference to buy soil and macrame.

-There is a Google Doc for registration for pre-K or out of district transfers

-Many things on the wish list have been purchased for the classrooms. There is still \$260 left to spend of the allotted \$3,000.

Principal report – Sarah Bradle

-No adds or drops to enrollment, there is one tour on Friday for a family who will be going into Kindergarten.

-There is a big board meeting next Monday regarding school closures and consolidations, and the next 3 meetings will be ones to watch, hopefully with a decision after that. If no decisions to consolidate are made, 35-45 staff positions would need to be cut. We will watch and wait and postpone discussion of survey questions to send out to families.

District Wide Parents update – Amy

-Dr Engle shared how he makes his snow day decisions. He actually drives up Bliss Rd to see what the conditions are and whether it is safe for a bus.

-The school board wanted more options than what the advisory committee provided regarding school closure and consolidation. The advisory committee provided a narrow scope, but now many more options are on the table, including the potential to close Summit in a few years.

Grants for TA's – Mariah and Alison

-Alex's dad is not available to write the grant request. We can keep thinking about how to make this happen. It would be easier to get a grant for TA's if it was rolled into a bigger request. Getting this funding would be a lot of work.

School Directory Update – Deanna

-Need a better idea what information parents would find useful, and how to format on a spreadsheet so it can be sorted. It may require someone to do data entry to get it started, and then we could figure out how to use a form going forward.

-With the information already available from the families that have signed up, we could have a printed form ready to hand out to people at the Soup Supper, perhaps with an option to sign up to receive a digital copy when it's available.

Field Trip Follow-Up – Kim

-We are generating a list of businesses connected to our school who might be interested in hosting students for a field trip. It is editable for anyone who wants to add to it.

Board Members for Next School Year – Kim

-Kim recapped the terms so we can be planning ahead to think about whether we will each continue in our roles.

Old Business

-Bussing: maybe MTU could be incorporated as an option to help get kids to school? They seem very willing to help.

PTO Topics

Secretary's Report – Kathryn

-Kim makes motion to approve minutes from prior month, Mariah seconds, motion carries

Treasurer's Report – Alex

-There was no change from the previous month, as there were no funding requests.

Soup Supper and Montessori Week

-This is an opportunity to share with parents what students are doing, and to share educational information with families who are considering Montessori. Every family will get 3-5 postcards to distribute to other people to let them know that the event is happening. It will also be on Facebook for people to share.

-Josh, Jenny and Nikki plan to present. Some E2 students could also be presenters.

-Most attendees will be parents of existing students, so it would be fun to see an actual lesson on how to use the works, like the bead cabinet, etc. Teachers will figure out what the session will be.

-Kim makes motion to hold the supper on 2/22, with a snow date of 2/27. Amy seconds, motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05