

Coulee Montessori SET Minutes

February 19, 2024 5:30pm @ Coulee Montessori/Northside Library

IN ATTENDANCE (Board Roster):

Kim Shively	Alexis Brandow	Alex Hiller	Sara Horstman	Willie Bittner
Deanna Maynard	Amy Merkey	Kathryn Wiegrefe	Sarah Bradle	

All present at meeting except: Cami Fuller, Mariah Bigelow

Other attendees: Ms Nikki (Children's House teacher), Mr Shively (E2 teacher)

CALL TO ORDER

Public Comment - None scheduled

GOVERNANCE TOPICS

School performance/sharing student work – Staff

- Kindness Week–Students made cards to drop off for neighbors. Children's House made cards for their specials teachers.
- Children's House is learning about magnets, parts of a turtle, going to learn about dinosaurs in next unit.
- Less than a month from Pi day. Older E2 learned circumference and area of a circle, will teach it to the 4th graders and then enjoy some pie
- Kids from E 1 and E2 will present Montessori materials at soup supper.
- 80 people registered for soup supper
- Summer school dates are set: July 15-26th 8-12 daily, lunch will be included

Principal Report – Sarah Bradle

- Enrollment has stayed steady. One student left, one came back after previously leaving.
- The school board decided to go to referendum to close Emerson and Spence and build a new school to consolidate both schools into. This will be a capital referendum. The goal would be to use the Hogan location, but not sure if that will work or not. Nothing can be done until it passes, and the consolidation would not be projected to happen until 2027. District has some funds in savings to maintain status quo for this coming year and not eliminate staff positions. Coulee Montessori will not be impacted at this time.
- Greenhouse should be built in March, hoping to get it done in one weekend!
- Black history event– local black professionals are coming to speak for all students during 20-min sessions students. Students can sign up for sessions that interest them.

District Wide Parents Update – Sarah Horstman

- Talked about the district calendar, things coming up
- There are 2 prospective school board members running unopposed
- CTE high school programming, there are opportunities to get college credit or real world experience doing things like welding, engineering, fire and EMS, etc

Our Facility Goals – Kim

- The document needs to be edited because information is out of date, but since no schools are closing it's not urgent.
- Could edit out CMAP notes, but if the intent is to bring it back at a later date, then keeping it in would be beneficial. Changes should still be made to bring the document current.

Plant Fundraiser --

- This was previously run through the office and not fully under SET. We now want it to fall directly on SET. This would be much simpler even if it means reimbursing others.
- Alex makes motion to make plant fundraiser completely under SET's purview. Amy seconds, motion passes

Board Terms – Kim

- March deadline to let Kim know if you're not returning
- Start thinking about names of people who may be a good fit to join.

School Directory Update

- About $\frac{3}{4}$ of CM families have opted in. We will not share street addresses, just emails and phone numbers. Make the Soup Supper the last call for families to join, then let teachers distribute it to each student.
- There was further discussion about making it a live document online that could be continually updated, but there are more risks to having that accessible online.
- Questioning why a complete directory can't be easily accessible and distributed by the office if a parent asks. This is done at SOTA

Field Trip Destinations

- Staff could ask students and their families for input at the beginning of next year to see if additional options/ideas could be generated.

PTO TOPICS

Secretary's Report – Kathryn

Kim makes a motion to approve the previous month's minutes, Amy seconds it, the motion carries.

Treasurer's Report – Alex

-Mr Shively had numbers on a Madison bus trip. A school bus would cost \$675, a coach bus would be \$1,316. Both numbers are before gas expenses. \$650 will come from the school district because seeing the capital is part of the curriculum. There is also a \$300 grant to cover going to the zoo. Approval was given to do the coach bus since field trip funding was budgeted for \$4,000 and we haven't yet spent any of it.

-Not much has materialized for outdoor school, and teachers would welcome help in planning those events because it's a lot of work to put them together.

-Deep Roots has gotten complicated to schedule with, and the cost has increased. Maybe it's time to look at other options. Should we look into Clearwater Farm in Onalaska? Or Rainbow Ridge?

-Current account balance is \$10,696

-Let Madeline Cakir and Madeline Adams know they can get assistance for schooling.

-Alex suggested giving \$300 to each teacher each year rather than requiring them to get reimbursed. Alex made a motion to pay teachers classroom stipend of \$300 each year. Teachers will be responsible for verbally communicating purchases to community. Documentation or receipts will not be required. Kim seconds, the motion carries.

Montessori Week

-6th graders made food drive flyer and will share what Wafer does. Someone needs to pick up crates from Wafer. Sarah volunteered her husband to go during the day to pick them up.

-Discussion on meals for parent teacher conferences for Thursday and whether to do individual JavaVino orders or maybe cater a full meal. Amy has a contact at Lindy's Subs that had previously said she would donate sandwich trays. Amy will ask what that would look like and whether sides would still be needed.

Soup Supper/ Ed Night

-Amy got Pearl St gift certificates for door prizes to give people an incentive to stay for the education piece after the soup supper.

-Maybe get donations for buns or soup from Kwik Trip or JavaVino

-Merch table – Deanna has students who will work tables and help with childcare

-Soups should be there around 4:45

Meeting adjourned at 7:07.