

Wausau Area Montessori Charter School Governance Council

Minutes of July 18, 2023 Meeting

Attendees:

Alisia Jones	Casey Jensen	Elizabeth Channel	Tiffany Rodriguez Lee
Bethany Stookey	Chris Dietsche	Julie Schell	Tyler Berg (6:00 arrival)
Casandra Feidt	Dana Moore	Kate Schuster	

1. Call to order & Welcome

- 5:32 called to order

2. Public comments

- No public comment

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

- Dana moved to approve the June 27, 2023 meeting minutes; Chris seconded.
- The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

4. Head of School report (Elizabeth Channel)

- Thank you for serving on our WAMCS Governance Council for the 2022-2023 school year! • Budget as of June: -\$2,073.59. (If MMUN fees were paid in full, the carryover budget would be \$1,285.75) • 10 prospective family tours in June

- Prospective family breakdown:

- Former Interest and/or prior waitlist (2 students): 1 Homeschool, 1 Hawthorn Hills
- New Interest (12 students): 1 Homeschool, 1 Franklin, 1 Jefferson, 3 South Mountain, 4 Merrill (OE), 1 DCE (OE), 1 Mountain View Montessori
- Future Requests for 2024-2025 (2 students): 1 Jefferson, 1 parochial (private)
 - ⇒ Two additional students added to the list since Elizabeth prepared her update
 - ⇒ Two students are siblings of current students

- Current enrollment for 2023-24: 115 (+19 on waitlist)

- 17 Kindergarten
- 18 First Grade (+4 on waitlist) - FULL
- 18 Second Grade (+6 on waitlist) - FULL
- 18 Third Grade (+7 on waitlist) - FULL
- 18 Fourth Grade (+2 on waitlist) - FULL
- 11 Fifth Grade
- 8 Sixth Grade
- 5 Seventh Grade
- 2 Eighth Grade

- Projected enrollment for 2023-24 if we lose families because we can only accommodate SOME of their children: 110 (+10 pm waitlist)

- 17 Kindergarten
- 18 First Grade (+4 on waitlist) - FULL
- 18 Second Grade (+5 on waitlist) - FULL
- 18 Third Grade (+1 on waitlist) - FULL
- 18 Fourth Grade - FULL
- 9 Fifth Grade
- 7 Sixth Grade
- 4 Seventh Grade
- 1 Eighth Grade

- Academic Data

- The state's required assessment is the WI Forward exam
 - Administered March-May
 - Results received in December
- District benchmarks are administered in September January and May
 - Results to be shared with governance council in October, February and June
 - iReady Diagnostics will be used exclusively for reading and math, K-8 for the 2023-24 school year. FastBridge and iReady were used in the 2022-23 year.
 - Chris requested data from the other schools for comparison
 - Dana questioned if there was another tool or method of assessment that can more accurately communicate proficiency of the students
 - Elizabeth is considering if testing strategy and practice could be incorporated in practical life • Chris asked if testing data influences board support. Julie responded that the board and district may look at ways to elevate the student experience vs. cut funding or end contract with the school.
 - Dana asked if there are parent initiatives that could be established. Julie offered that some groups include this as part of their continual improvement goals. Elizabeth shared that she could include the top 3 things for parents to do at home with their children.

5. District Administration Liaison report (Julie Schell)

- The district is working with a Greenheck project management team to plan out the Montessori transition from Horace Mann to Lincoln.
- Julie left at 6:20 to attend another meeting

6. Faculty/Staff report (Alisia Jones)

- No report

7. Parent Connect (Dana Moore)

- No report. The Parent Connect group has not met since our last governance council meeting

8. School board report (Tiffany Rodriguez Lee)

- Nothing specific to our school to report
- Google form has been sent to team. All should choose a first semester meeting to attend and report on.

9. Check in: Council terms

- Alicia - first term ends August 2023
- Dana - first term ends Sept 2023
- Tyler - first term ends Sept 2023
- Tiffany - second term ends Dec 2023
- Cassie - first term ends Sept 2024
- Chris - third term ends November 2024
- Bethany - first term ends January 2025
- Kate - second term ends April 2025
- Casey - second term ends May 2025

⇒ Members can take a year off after the third term and then rejoin for a fourth two-year term ⇒ Guides typically serve 1 term (2 years) and then the position is opened to other guides. (The same guide may continue on for a second term if no one else is interested.)

⇒ All are asked to send an email to confirm intent to continue on to their next term as the end of their current term nears

10. Enrollment policy update

Waitlist verbiage

- Proposed changed:
 - Section 1A - Modify to better represent what is covered in the parent visit
 - Section 1B - remove
 - Section 1C - Modify to reflect the current district process
 - Section 1D - no change
 - Remove the section 1 "note" section

- Update roman numerals so there is a section 2 (typo remediation)
- Section 3 - remove
- Section 4 Lottery Definition and Eligibility - no change
- Section 4 Lottery process
 - 4C - update to reflect that the lottery will occur during the February governance council meeting
 - 4H - Needs to be reviewed and rewritten for clarity.
 - To consider: sibling lottery (if there are multiple siblings of current students waiting for an open position), waitlist carryover from year to year, how to handle open positions throughout the year and if waitlist order has to be reset after each the lottery, etc.
 - Elizabeth will call Appleton Public Montessori to see how they handle
- Tiffany moved to hold our spot in the policy agenda and complete discussion and action during the August meeting. Chris seconded.
- The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

5th grade cap - discussion

- Elizabeth shared concern around classroom capacity for the 2023-24 school year if there was additional enrollment interest for the remaining seven openings in the fifth grade classroom.
- Council recommendation is to explore the possibility of opening another E2 classroom for the 2023-24 school year. Elizabeth will discuss with Tabatha Gundrum.

11. Strategic Plan

Review and update Goal 2

Add 3K or 9th grade to current offerings for new charter contract

- Kate moved to table the strategic plan discussion to the August meeting; Tiffany seconded. • The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

12. New School Year Planning

Open House

- Elizabeth explained changes in the way open house will occur this year. All parents are asked to attend a head of school presentation from 4:30-5:00 and then 25-minute presentations by the guides of each of their student(s). Guides will provide the same presentation for 3 sessions so parents with multiple students can attend multiple presentations. Parent connect, governance council and Kris will be available to share and collect information as well. A food truck and ice cream truck are being considered as well. If families are not able to attend, the information from the open house will be shared.

Letter from Governance Council to parents

- Dana moved to table the governance council letter discussion to the August meeting; Tyler seconded. • The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

13. Discussion/Action items

- Three paraprofessional openings for the 2023-24 school year. Elizabeth will ask for council member availability for interviews after the meeting.
- Dana asked about before-/after-care. The district contracts with Wausau Child Care. We cannot offer it as a school.
- Future meeting agenda request: discuss school start/end schedule once we move to Lincoln

14. Adjourn

- Tiffany moved to adjourn; Dana seconded.
- The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.
- Meeting ended 7:35