

Wausau Area Montessori Charter School Governance

Council Minutes of September 19, 2023 Meeting

Attendees: Alisia Jones Bethany Stookey Casandra Feidt Casey Jensen	Dana Moore Elizabeth Channel Kate Schuster Tyler Berg	Excused Absence: Chris Dietsche Julie Schell Tiffany Rodriguez Lee
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1. Call to order & Welcome

- 5:33 called to order

2. Public comments

- No public comment

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

- Cassandra moved to approve the August 15, 2023 meeting minutes; Cassie seconded. °
 The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

4. Head of School report (Elizabeth Channel)

- Thank you for our amazing Parent Connect group! The group met with Elizabeth over the summer to plan the year ahead.
- Balance for 2022-23 = -\$2,198.99 - updated by budget/finance office
 (The negative balance due to late-/non-repayment of MMUN fees. Elizabeth reported that the families that still owe money have been actively submitting payments.) • Budget for 2023-24 = \$14,974.00
 - ° August balance = \$14,943.32
- 2 prospective family tours in August
- Current enrollment for 2023-24: 101 (+4 on waitlist). 80.2% of capacity. °
 - 12 Kindergarten (multiple families that did not show up)
 - ° 15 First Grade
 - ° 18 Second Grade - FULL
 - ° 18 Third Grade (+3 on waitlist, 1 has a siblings in the school) - FULL
 - ° 17 Fourth Grade (+1 on waitlist - sibling is on the third grade wait list)
 - ° 10 Fifth Grade
 - ° 7 Sixth Grade
 - ° 3 Seventh Grade
 - ° 1 Eighth Grade
- MMUN 2024: 6 children, 3 parents, Elizabeth and Mrs. Cruz-Urbe are going this year. Two of the children attending this year also went last year.
- Bethany asked what an independent learning day looks like for Montessori. Elizabeth

explained that the children will have activities that they can complete independently. A communication with details about the independent learning day will be sent out on Friday.

5. District Administration Liaison report (Julie Schell)

None.

6. Faculty/Staff Report (Alisia Jones)

- Students have been working on prepared environment and organization, expectations and routines.
- I-ready testing in reading and math will be given this month.
- CH and E1 are going to grandpas farm on Sept ember 20. Cary Lobner (Ms. Jones' para) is driving the bus.
- Thursday is International Peace Day -- CH is learning songs and doing a craft. • E2 is focusing on the renaissance. They have been given the task of filling the display cabinets.
- Elizabeth noted how great it was to have the adolescent group in our school

7. Parent Connect Report (Dana Moore)

- Checking = \$2,271.42. Savings = \$11.53. (Total \$2,282.95 before money from popcorn and mum fundraisers is added.
- Parent Connect has come up with lots of fundraising ideas and is discussing the frequency of fundraisers. They have set a goal to raise \$100 (profit) per child. Last year's fundraisers brought in \$7,500.
- Papa Murphy fundraiser is September 20
- Fall social at Sylvan Hill is September 27 - walk, taco bar (pot luck) and caramel apple boat fundraiser
- Harvest Fest is planned for the end of October

8. School board report (Cassandra Feidt)

- Community foundation update
- Conversation about the finances of the restructure/referendum. High bid came in for Wausau West. Impression that we are overbudget and there will have to be cuts made. There are several other bids expected.
- Unclear if we have the full amount allocated to Montessori that was in the referendum -- question for Julie to address at next meeting. Elizabeth will request the itemized breakdown of what is allocated for Montessori from Josh.

9. Enrollment policy and waitlist update

Recap of proposed changes:

- 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 - verbiage changed to allow us to cancel if we are full
- 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
 - 4D - added that someone that does not have children at the school must do the draw
 - 4H - no change
- Per August 15 meeting: Elizabeth to check with Julie to see if the district would allow us to not accept children for a period of time (e.g., from lottery through end of school year). Still waiting on reply from Julie.
- Need to have a plan for how to handle the waitlist in place prior to January. • For discussion: cut off enrollment at the end of first quarter, October 1st, or end of 1st semester (first quarter ends Nov 3, second quarter ends Jan 12).
- Cassie moved to have Elizabeth add the first quarter end date to the enrollment policy and we will have a vote at the October meeting. Tyler seconded. Approved with no further discussion.

10.Strategic Plan

- 1. Review and update goal 2**
- 2. Add 3K or 9th grade to current offering for new charter contract**

- Remove " Maintain strong and collaborative relationships with Wausau School District and Horace Mann Middle School." from goal 2. (Review next year to see if we need to re-add.)
- Promote Wisconsin Montessori Association (WMA) LaCross conference and American Montessori Society (AMS) conference. There is interest in a virtual option or viewing party to allow family involvement.
- With the onset of another charter school, we need to define what is uniquely Montessori. • Dana moved to keep the strategic plan as an ongoing agenda item, Cassandra seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

11.Discussion/Action Items

None.

12.Adjourn

- Cassie moved to adjourn; Dana seconded.
- The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.
- Meeting ended 7:25