Wausau Area Montessori Charter School Governance Council Minutes of June 27, 2023 Meeting

Attendees:
Alisia Jones
Bethany Stookey
Casandra Feidt
Casey Jensen
Chris Dietsche
Dana Moore
Elizabeth Channel
Kate Schuster (virtual)
Tyler Berg

Excused Absence:
Tiffany Lee
Julie Schell

Unexcused Absence:

1. **Call to Order & Welcome**
   - 5:35 called to order

2. **Public Comments**
   - No public comment

3. **Approval of previous meeting minutes**
   - Casey moved to approve the May 16, 2023 meeting minutes; Cassandra seconded.
   - The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

4. **Head of School report (Elizabeth Channel)**
   - Thanks for a great 22-23 school year
   - Budget as of end of May: -$2,424.88 (We are over budget because two families have not fully paid MMUN fees. If they are not paid by end of month, the deficit will roll into next year's budget. Payment plans have been established for the families.)
   - 2 prospective families in May
   - Bruce Trueblood has successfully completed his Montessori training with certification in Elementary 2 with North American Montessori Center
   - For the next two years, Elizabeth expect to remain in dual role as principle of Hewitt Texas Elementary and head of school at WAMCS. What happens when we transfer to the new school is still to be determined.
   - 5-8th grade families received communication this month about next year's MMUN. Elizabeth will meet with interested families the week of June 26th. Future fundraising for MMUN was discussed.

5. **District Administration Liaison report (Julie Schell)**
   - No report

6. **Faculty/Staff Report (Alisia Jones)**
   - No report

7. **Parent Connect (Dana Moore)**
   - Additional volunteers are needed. The group met to strategize how to recruit, delegate and communicate
   - Considering creating an alumni scholarship
   - Continuing to work through non-profit status with IRS
   - $2529.63 in checking, $11.53 in savings

8. **Enrollment update**

- Current enrollment for 2023-24:
    - 16 Kindergarten
    - 18 First Grade (+3 on waitlist) - FULL
    - 18 Second Grade (+7 on waitlist) - FULL
    - 18 Third Grade (+5 on waitlist) - FULL
    - 18 Fourth Grade (+2 on waitlist) - FULL
    - 10 Firth Grade
    - 8 Sixth Grade
    - 4 Seventh Grade
    - 1 Eighth Grade
- Retaining 87 students, 19 new registrations, 17 children on the wait list
- Elizabeth met with Tabatha Gundrum and Julie Schell. Tabatha suggested an additiona E1 classroom might be a viable possibility to deal with the E1 waitlist, but until we move to the new school, we do not have the space for another classroom of E1, nor for the students as they promote to E2 in the coming years. In the new school, we will have room for two Children's House classrooms (18 students each), three E1 classrooms (27 students each), three E2 classrooms (27 students each), and two Adolescent classrooms (18 students each).
- For 2023-24, the library will move to room 146 and Kim Cruiz-Uribe's E2 room will move to the current library
- A Para for Kim Cruiz-Uribe's room has been approved
- Paraprofessionals, Loretta Wagner and Kati Radtke have resigned.
- Para's will need to attend a Montessori para training in the fall. Tabatha has approved.
- For 2023-24 schoolyear we have been approved to get a substitute for Bruce for the weeks that he is in the field. (One week of every six week cycle.)
- In 2024-25 will need to hire a new E2 teacher. The Adolescent room will be just 7-8.

9. Location discussion

- 2WAMCS 20th year celebration / open house is a possibility depending on construction timeline
- Playground renovation is not included in the current budget for Lincoln renovation.
- We need to build out a strong long term strategic plan that considers expanding to 3K or 9 prior to our June 2026 Charter contract renewal. These decisions may also influence the redesign of Lincoln.

10. Other / Discussion

- Clarification on rules for council member discussions/emails between meetings -- it is okay to send a message that contains an idea and request to discuss during the next meeting. It is not okay to have the discussion through email.
- Request to discuss Spring assessment data in next meeting.
- Discussion about how parents (or grandparents or others) can participate in the classroom. What is the Montessori approach to reading, math, social-emotional? How can that be shared with volunteers?
- Request to add council member term review to future agenda. (Terms are 2 years.)

11. Adjourn

- Cassandra moved to adjourn; Tyler seconded.
- The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.
- Meeting ended 6:56