

Wausau Area Montessori Charter School Governance Council

Minutes of August 9, 2023 Special Meeting

Attendees:

Alisia Jones
Bethany Stookey
Casandra Feidt
Casey Jensen
Dana Moore
Elizabeth Channel
Julie Schell
Kate Schuster
Tiffany Rodriguez Lee

Excused Absence:

Tyler Berg
Chris Dietsche

1. Call to order & Welcome

- 5:37 called to order

2. Public comments

- No public comment

3. Enrollment for 2023-24

- Elizabeth sent a not to Tabatha and Julie that captured all the questions and concerns discussed at the August 3 meeting, including:
 - Concern for an authentic Montessori experience for E2 students
 - Questioning the hurry to add an additional E1 classroom vs. making sure we are doing the right things for our current students
 - Concern about hiring and setting up a new classroom this late into the year (close to the start of the new school year)
 - Concern for the additional stress this would place on the current E1 teachers
 - Desire for a full-time head of school
 - Question about funding materials for another classroom
 - Concern that additional classroom space within Horace Mann would be away from the current classrooms
- Cassie questioned the degree of certainty that the district will add the E2 classroom next year and what numbers would be required to support that. Elizabeth responded that we will have 47 4th, 5th and 6th grade students next year based on current enrollment and that will justify the need for an additional E2. Taking on the additional E1 students from the waitlist (or not) tip the balance in either direction.
- Cassie questioned what student population (number) would justify a full-time administrator. Julie responded that schools are reviewed case-by-case. There is not a set number. Some elementary schools have about 200 students. Charter enrollments have historically fluctuated up and down. The door may be open to new opportunities once we get into the new school and with the expansion to 4K through 8.
- Cassie questioned how FTEs would be affected if we move forward with the new E1 and then some of the waitlist students decline to enroll. Elizabeth responded that some families from the waitlist have recently communicated that they will be enrolling in their neighborhood schools.
- Bethany asked what the capacity for the new E1 classroom would be. Elizabeth responded that it would be no greater than 15.

- Tiffany moved to take a roll call vote for/against the addition of an additional E1 classroom in the 2023-24 school year. Members were directed to vote "yes" or "no".
 - Alisia Jones - "no"
 - Bethany Stookey - "no"
 - Casandra Feidt - "no"
 - Casey Jensen - "no"
 - Dana Moore - "no"
 - Kate Schuster - "no"
 - Tiffany Rodriguez Lee - "no"
- By unanimous decision, the council voted against the addition of a third E1 classroom for the 2023-24 school year

4. Adjourn

- Dana moved to adjourn; Cassie seconded.
- The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.
- Meeting ended 5:58