Wausau Area Montessori Charter School Governance Council
Minutes of January 16, 2024 Meeting

Attendees:

Alisia Jones	Chris Dietsche	Kate Schuster
Bethany Stookey	Dana Moore	Tiffany Rodriguez Lee
Casey Jensen	Elizabeth Channel	Tyler Berg
Casandra Feidt	Julie Schell	Melissa Polebitski (virtual)

1. **Call to order & Welcome**
   - 5:38 called to order

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

3. **Approval of previous meeting minutes**
   - Casey moved to approve the December 19, 2023 meeting minutes; Tyler seconded.
     - The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

4. Head of School report (Elizabeth Channel)

- Gratitude for the kids that went to Bunkers this past weekend for MMUN – singing, piano, etc.
- Budget:
  - At end of 2022-2023 Year: -$ 2,198.99
  - For 2023-2024: $14,974.00
  - Balance at end of December: $ -3,242.19
    - District will cover the deficit created by the purchase of program materials.
- Prospective family tours in December: 2
- Current enrollment for 2023-24: 101 (80.2% of capacity) – no change from last month. No waitlist at present. There are a couple families moving to area that have expressed interest in enrolling this year.
  - 12 Kinder
  - 16 First
  - 17 Second
  - 18 Third
  - 17 Fourth
  - 10 Fifth
  - 6 Sixth
  - 4 Seventh
  - 1 Eighth

- Current interest in 2023-24 enrollment:106 (71.62% of capacity*)

Four-K		2 New Siblings	2 New	(4 total)
Kindergarten		5 New Siblings	2 New	(7 total)
First Grade	13 Continuing			(13 total)
Second Grade	14 Continuing			(14 total)
Third Grade	15 Continuing		2 New	(17 total)
Fourth Grade	17 Continuing	2 New Siblings	2 New	(21 total)
Fifth Grade	17 Continuing		1 New	(18 total)
Sixth Grade	7 Continuing			(7 total)
Seventh Grade	5 Continuing			(5 total)
Eighth Grade	4 Continuing			(4 total)

*Total # of seats updated to 148 for the 2024 school year based on additional classroom space

5. District Administration Liaison report (Julie Schell)

- School board is interested in selecting a demographer to look at some of the elementary school studies. Not expecting any action for the 2024-25 school year.
- New district calendar will go to the board for approval – 3 true snow days built in, last day is end of May, no independent learning days (based on feedback from the community questioning the quality of content being received on those days vs. in-person days. In response they are proposing 7 days off for teacher in-service days. To accommodate, they are proposing adding 4 minutes on to the day for secondary grades (alternatively adding a day or two to the end of the school year) First day of school is after Labor Day.
- Board is making a final decision on the search firm to be used in finding Dr. Hilts' replacement. Tabatha is working with the schoolboard now. Community survey is expected soon (i.e. "what are you looking for in a superintendent").

6. Faculty/Staff Report (Alisia Jones)

- Current virtue: Wonder.
- I-ready diagnostics finishing up; will update parents at conferences
- 3rd graders go to Leigh Yawkey on Friday, January 19
- Bi-weekly Montessori assemblies have started
- PR committee met for the first time last week. Looking at social media for the community and education of Horace Mann students through posting information in the glass cases outside the bathrooms
- Several fieldtrips to the Grand Theatre coming up
- Friendship lunch to be held on February 14

7. Parent Connect Report (Dana Moore)

- Checking balance meeting = $3,927.11| Savings = $11.53
- January 24 is Culvers Share night (Bridge Street). Need at least 4 parent volunteers.
- Re-assessing ring-pop sale for Valentines Day due to parent feedback
- February 16 is bowling night. Parent connect will cover the $8 fee for students (parents and siblings are welcome to bowl but will need to pay for themselves)
- Bingo night in March

8. School board report – January 8

- Budget discussion
- Referendum updates / considering FFE (furniture, fixtures and equipment) to offset some of the overages
- Red Granite officially approved to be housed at Monk Garden
- Tech department presented on the Importance of multi-factor authentication

9. Enrollment Policy Update – Establish for 4K

- Need to set up a cutoff date for enrollment for 4K.
- 4K opens for the district on February 2. Other 4K sites are filled on a first come first serve basis. We are different because of the required lottery process detailed in our charter contract.
- Lottery for the rest of school is currently scheduled for our February 20 standard governance council meeting.
- After much discussion, the council decided to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, February 6* for the 2024-25 lottery (entire school, including 4K). After this date, the remaining slots will be filled first-come, first serve.

*Date amended to Tuesday, February 13 after the meeting.

10. Strategic Plan

Continue to push for full time head of school
Adolescent Planning

- Tiffany will work on amending last year's strategic plan.

- Tiffany moved to table adolescent planning to the February meeting. Chris seconded. Passed without further discussion.

11. Discussion/Action Items

- Align annual meeting with Parent Connect
    - Have Parent Connect provide a presentation during the governance council annual meeting. Parent Connect will then not need to have a separate annual meeting.
- Term check-in
    - Tiffany and Alicia to confirm continuation into 3rd and 2nd terms, respectively.
- WAMCS Feedback Form is available for families to share thoughts and ideas.
- AM recess – will discuss during staff meeting Jan 17 and will be in place starting next week.
- Wisconsin DPI grant cycle just opened. Elizabeth attended a virtual meeting, and we are eligible to apply for the expansion grant – expand by grade (4K expansion) OR expand by size (greater of 20% or 20 kids per kids OR slow growth model). Elizabeth will take this to the school board for approval. Application due by 4:30 on February 21. Firm.
- Nexus Meeting. First meeting was last Thursday. Meeting every couple of weeks through June. Now in the listing of needs/dreams phase. Elizabeth asked if furniture was included in the budget (response pending).

12. Adjourn

- Kate moved to adjourn; Tiffany seconded.
    - The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.
    - Meeting ended 7:00