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

Attendees:

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

1. **Call to order & Welcome**
   - 5:37 called to order

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

3. **Approval of previous meeting minutes**
   - Chris moved to approve the January 16 meeting minutes and February 13 special meeting minutes; Tyler seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

4. Head of School report (Elizabeth Channel)

- Gratitude for the people who volunteered their time, efforts, and talents to help with the WI DPI Expansion Grant application – including: Bethany Stookey, Cassandra Feidt, Bruce Trueblood, Chris and Dawn Dietsche, Tiffany Lee, and another community member.
- Budget:
  - At end of 2022-2023 Year: -$ 2,198.99
  - For 2023-2024: $14,974.00
  - Balance at end of January: $ -2,291.06
    - 1 MMUN payment remaining and everyone has paid on time
- Prospective family tours in January: 6
  (3 Kindergarten, 1 First grade, 1 Second grade, 1 Fifth grade)
- Current enrollment for 2023-24: 102 (80.9% of capacity)
  - 12 Kinder
  - 15 First
  - 18 Second
  - 18 Third
  - 17 Fourth
  - 10 Fifth
  - 7 Sixth
  - 4 Seventh
  - 1 Eighth

5. District Administration Liaison report (Julie Schell)

- Echoed thanks for everyone's involvement in the submission of the expansion grant as well as Elizabeth's contributions.
- Budget presentation in the upcoming board meeting – will hear need for budget cut of about $2.5 million. Going through staffing process now and looking for efficiencies. Budget deficit will largely impact salaries and benefits.

6. Faculty/Staff Report (Alisia Jones)

- Doing morning recess before lineup; it has been going well
- Safety ambassadors have applied and interviewed
- Lots of great theatre fieldtrips
- Staff meeting has been talking about intentional things that we do to help the classroom and school; also the unintentional things
- March 8 is an in-service day

- March 6 and 12 are parent/guide conferences
- Ms. Cruz will be assisting 3rd graders in preparing for April's testing
- Keyhole Society has been created
- PR committee is working on captions for photos taken of activities throughout year
- Friendship lunch was a success; kids loved it
- E1 has finished Africa studies and is now studying Asia
- AD is working on a puppet stage for the school to use and a floormap of Asia

7. Parent Connect Report (Dana Moore)

- Checking balance = $3,860.58 | Savings = $11.53
- Put together treat bags for Valentines Day
- Bowling was February 16; Parent Connect paid for children with fundraiser money
- Nexus doesn't recommend that we do playground work until after the construction work because they will be using that space for construction staging

8. School board report

- Wasn't televised
- AGR report-out
- Approval for Montessori to explore the expansion grant
- 2024-25 calendar was approved

9. Enrollment Policy Update – Establish for 4K

- Tiffany moved to table agenda item 9. Cassandra seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

10. Referendum Plans

- Elizabeth restated the working plan she shared at the February 13 special meeting. Still needs to go in front of the board, etc.
- Asked if our encore staff could add another section for instruction of our AD students (instead of having them attend Horace Mann allied classes).

11. Discussion/Action Items

Elizabeth has been working with Rob Phelps and Mike Erickson to determine long-term co-existence in the Horace Mann building. Starting as soon as 4th quarter, Montessori will have lunch from 12:45-1:15 in the cafeteria. This will allow peanut butter lunches as well as opportunity for table preparation, etc.

Changes for Forward exam – Elizabeth will talk to staff first and will update the governance council at a future meeting.

We still need to push for a full time head of school. In the coming year we will be facing:

- Growing number of students in grades 4K-8 (expansion to 4K in 2024-25)
- Construction starting on the building
- Potential growth by 20 students commitment if awarded grant
- New classrooms to set up and teachers to onboard
- Dana will finesse the head of school request letter from last year to incorporate additional points above.

12. Adjourn

- Tiffany moved to adjourn; Tyler seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion. Meeting ended 6:39