

Wausau Area Montessori Charter School Governance Council

Minutes of March 19, 2024 Meeting

Attendees:

Alisia Jones

Bethany Stookey

Casandra Feidt

Chris Dietsche

Dana Moore

Elizabeth Channel

Kate Schuster

Tiffany Rodriguez Lee

Tyler Berg (5:47)

Rex Zemke

Melissa Polebitski (virtual)

Excused:

Casey Jensen

Julie Schell

1. Call to order & Welcome

- 5:34 called to order

2. Public comments

- No public comment

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

- Tabled until April

4. Head of School report (Elizabeth Channel)

- Gratitude for the families who participate in the Park Meet Ups coordinated by our WAMCS Parent Connect
- Budget:
 - At end of 2022-2023 Year: -\$ 2,198.99
 - For 2023-2024: \$14,974.00
 - Balance at end of February: \$ -716.71
- Prospective family tours in February: 15
(7 4K, 2 Kindergarten, 2 First grade, 2 Second grade, 2 Sixth grade)
- Current enrollment for 2023-24: 102 (80.9% of capacity)
 - 13 Kinder
 - 17 First
 - 17 Fourth
 - 6 Sixth
 - 16 Second
 - 10 Fifth
 - 4 Seventh
 - 18 Third
 - 1 Eighth
- We should hear something back about the expansion grant in early summer
- Thursday, April 4 public open house from 4:00-6:00)

5. District Administration Liaison report (Julie Schell)

- none

6. Faculty/Staff Report (Alisia Jones)

- Thanks to all the families who participated in conferences.
- March virtues: moderation and balance
- CH – trying to get outside more (read out-louds and crafts); going to the Children's Imaginarium on March 20
- E1 – read out-louds outside (“Who/What Was . . .” series). Opening geodes after spring break. Will do planting in the classroom. Made banana bread. Had a potential family student/parent observation. Partnering with Mrs. Cruz for forward preparation.
- E2 – preparing for culture night on April 11. MMUN will present at the annual meeting.
- Adolescent – Read across America (kids are reading 9 books each). Planning and preparing Friday lunches.

7. Parent Connect Report (Dana Moore)

- Checking balance = \$4,674.16 | Savings = \$11.53. (Total: \$4,685.69)
- March 15 Bingo night included coupons for extended recess, lunch with Mrs. Channel, etc.
- Spring flower fundraiser raised around \$500
- Melissa Polebitski is now acting president
- Working on finalizing by-laws
- Request that Parent Connect and Governance Council get their own “room” and time slot at the open house
- Concert and Art Fair to include a book sale
- April 27 is Ghidorzi Green and Clean
- Teacher appreciation week is in May
- End of year picnic

8. School board report

- Ed ops meeting:
 - Science resource adoption (paid for with Esser funds)
 - Construction updates for Wausau West
 - Wausau West athletic field 50% presentation
 - Request to allow parents to request that their children attend the school where they teach (approved)
 - Staffing budget discussion in response to the \$3.5 million deficit

9. Playground Information (Rex Zemke; district grounds keeper)

- Current playground by Landscape Structures is from 1994. Grounds Maintenance has slowly been taking out equipment that is no longer usable and reconfiguring as possible.
- New playground is not confined to existing woodchip space.
 - Expansion of playground area was discussed.Expanding into the front yard area may be possible.
- As a next step we would have Landscape Structures and Burke Playground Equipment (the playground companies the district typically works with) come in to talk with us about our ideas and budget. Then they will put together a design. After reviewing design, we can choose a company (and continue to modify/revise).
- If we are unable to afford the full plan they present, we can decide to purchase in phases so additional equipment may be installed in the future (e.g., purchased through fundraising).
- The Wausau school district Building and Grounds team can help with some of the un-install and install work to contain costs.
- Timing: proceed with plans as soon as possible so we have plans to show to the board for approval. Install would be summer of 2025.
- Note: Much of the playground area will be ripped out for the 2024-25 school year to accommodate the construction of the building addition.

10. Referendum Plans Update

- Nexus to present 50% plan of Horace Mann/Montessori to the school board in April for approval of concept. After that, we as a governance council will have input.

11. Annual Meeting Agenda & Plans

- Elizabeth has coordinated child care with a high-school club; will also approach Adolescent classroom for volunteers. Food is also being considered for families.
- Information to be sent to families with RSVP requested by April 12
- In addition to our usual agenda, we will also include a presentation by MMUN, playground discussion, and referendum update

12. Discussion/Action Items

- Old business follow-ups
 - On February 26, Dana sent the full-time head of school request letter to the administration and school board as discussed in the February meeting.
 - Starting April 1, Montessori will have lunch from 12:45-1:15 in the cafeteria. Communication will be coming out soon.
 - Changes to the Forward exam include:
 - text to speech available to all students for all parts of the exam
 - English and Language Arts (ELA) – changed from four sections to three: Reading comprehension, short write (1 paragraph) and spelling/grammar questions
 - No change to Science and Social Studies
- Paras continue to go through Montessori training. To get a feel for other grade bands, they have been experiencing time in other classrooms.

13. Adjourn

- Tiffany moved to adjourn; Tyler seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion. Meeting ended 7:12.