

Wausau Area Montessori Charter School Governance Council

Minutes of April 16, 2024 Annual Meeting

Council attendees:

Alisia Jones	Chris Dietsche	Kate Schuster
Bethany Stookey	Dana Moore	Tiffany Rodriguez Lee
Casandra Feidt	Elizabeth Channel	Tyler Berg
Casey Jensen (departed 6:30)	Julie Schell	

1. Call to order & Welcome

- 5:38 called to order

2. Explanation of Annual

- a. What is a governance council?
- b. How does a Governance council work?

Wausau Area Montessori Charter School is a Wausau School District public school – required by WI state law to have a governing board, bylaws and contract with state. Tiffany presented an explanation of the governance council's role in promoting, supporting, and developing our school.

3. Public comments

- Question about use of Canvas for communication
 - Answer: This is a Wausau School District tool
- Question about outside space and plans to extend playground into grassy area
 - Answer: This is on our "wants" list

4. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Casey moved to approve the February and March meeting minutes; Chris seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion

4. Head of School report (Elizabeth Channel)

- Gratitude extended to the amazing Montessori staff that come to serve children every day
- Budget:
 - At end of 2022-2023 Year: -\$ 2,198.99
 - For 2023-2024: \$14,974.00
 - Balance at end of February: \$ -1,353.76
(pending reimbursement for Elizabeth's MMUN travel and curriculum purchase)
- Prospective family tours in March 4
(1 4K, 2 First grade, 1 Fifth grade)
- Current enrollment for 2023-24: 103 (81.7% of capacity)

◦ 13 Kinder	◦ 18 First	◦ 17 Fourth	◦ 6 Sixth
	◦ 16 Second	◦ 10 Fifth	◦ 4 Seventh
	◦ 18 Third		◦ 1 Eighth
- Congratulations to Bruce Trueblood for completing his Masters of Art in Teaching Pedagogy and NAMC Upper Elementary Certification and to Katelyn Hills for receiving her NAMC Lower Elementary Certification.

5. District Administration Liaison report (Julie Schell)

- Julie introduced herself to attendees and offered her availability to respond to any questions or concerns.

6. Faculty/Staff Report (Alisia Jones)

- Introduction to guides: Mrs. Bartletti (CH), Ms. Jones and Ms. Hills (E1), Mrs. Cruz-Urbe (E2) and Mr. Trueblood (AD)
- Virtue for this month: Cooperation
- School recently started eating lunch together in the cafetorium
- Grades 3-8 have been taking the Forward Exam
- Grades 1-2 learning about volcanoes
- CH went on field trip to Imaginarium
- Ms. Jones class highlights: plants, rock unit, Junior Achievement, new student, stewed apples, Asia group project
- Ms. Hills class highlights: reading outside, finishing earth's layers unit
- E2 class highlights: just finished culture fair, now studying stone age, many committees
- AD class highlights: culture fair, creative writing, continue to work on large scale continent maps, a puppet stage and sleds with skis
- Lunchroom waste reduction (Wausau School District Foundation) – Grant was awarded today to add compost bins to the lunchroom

7. Parent Connect Report (Melissa Polebitski)

- Parent Connect is an extension of governance council
 - Interim President: Melissa Polebitski
 - Vice President: vacant
 - Secretary: Dana Moore
 - Treasurer: Dawn Dietche
- Will be applying for 501c3 non-profit designation. In preparation, they have been revamping their bylaws and mission statement.
- Parent Connect is responsible for several fundraisers throughout the year.
- Monies earned through fundraising are used to keep family events free, purchase all ingredients for peace feast soups, cater conference meals for our staff, yearly guide reimbursements up to \$200 (increased from \$100 in previous years)
- Always looking for volunteers. Current openings:
 - Vice president
 - Committee chairs
 - Fundraising
 - Hospitality
 - Family events
 - Audit committee (if we don't get volunteers for this we are required to hire and pay a CPA to perform this function)
- To become a member:
 - Attend a meeting
 - Read and understand policies, bylaws and standing rules provided
 - Sign policy agreement and return to president or secretary
 - Attend next consecutive meeting to become a member and obtain voting power
- Checking balance = \$5,823.98 | Savings = \$11.53. (Total: \$5,835.51)

(Agenda item 11 moved up to this position in agenda)

8. WSD School board report

- Meeting of April 8
 - Referendum updates on Wausau West and John Muir
 - Budget deficit of approx. \$3M that the district and school board are trying to solve for. Preliminary notices must go out by April 22. Finalization of budget is due in May.

10. Referendum Plans Update

a. Plans to WSD Board of Education

- Nexus to present 50% plan of Horace Mann/Montessori to the school board on April 22 for approval of concept. Goal is to have renovation complete by Fall 2025 school year.

b. Playground discussion

- Rex Zemke talked to us last month about playground equipment.
- Attendees participated in a discussion on needs/hopes for the playground. Some ideas and questions from that discussion:
 - Lots of things to climb on
 - Can parent's build? (question for Rex) and/or Eagle Scout partnerships
 - Learning structure like what Hewitt-Texas has
 - Head Start in Merrill got a grant for a natural playground
 - Can we add on to the garden (part of our request is to fence it in)
 - More trees, more greenery/bushes, gradual hills, stepping stones, benches
 - Shade sales (note that Rex advised against these for liability)
 - Swings – we need more than one
 - Outdoor classroom. (note that we have an account containing funds previously raised for tables – enough for one table)
 - A micro-version of jo-jo's jungle

A survey will be sent out following the meeting to gather more ideas. Results will be shared with the school.

- Plan for 2024-25 school year - we are gaining the double room across from Elizabeth's office for Mrs. Cruz-Uribe's E2 class. The room directly next door will house the new E2 classroom.
- Elizabeth expressed gratitude to Dr. Phelps for his continued collaboration and support.

11. Curriculum

- MMUM Presentation
 - Coal Wilson, Zeke Channel, Grace Grund, Henry Yanzer, Isaac Ralf (report read by Mrs. Cruz-Uribe), Tilly Cruz-Uribe (report read by Mrs. Cruz-Uribe)
- Act 20 Legislation
 - Goal of advancing literacy achievement
 - iReady diagnostic is currently used; state is developing a new screener that will be used globally; children below the 25th percentile will have an individualized education plan (IEP) and a separate screener

12. Discussion/Action Items

- none

13. Adjourn

- Dana moved to adjourn; Tyler seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion. Meeting ended 7:11.