

Wausau Area Montessori Charter School Governance Council

Minutes of May 21, 2024 Regular Meeting

Council attendees:

Alisia Jones	Dana Moore
Bethany Stookey	Elizabeth Channel
Casandra Feidt	Kate Schuster
Casey Jensen	Tiffany Rodriguez Lee
Chris Dietsche	Tyler Berg

Absent:

Julie Schell

Guest attendees:

Melissa Polebitski (virtual)

1. Call to order & Welcome

- 5:35 called to order

2. Public comments

- none

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Chris moved to approve the April meeting minutes; Casandra seconded.
The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

4. Head of School report (Elizabeth Channel)

- Gratitude extended to the Dr. Shannon Young, principal of EEA and WAVE charter schools. She contacted Elizabeth with the opportunity for us to co-host a booth at the Children’s Festival on Saturday, May 11. The event was a great success with more than 5,000 people in attendance and the assistance of the following members of our Montessori community: Alisia Jones, Christine Geimer and Melissa Polebitski. Elizabeth has registered us for a table at the Fall festival.
- Budget:
 - At end of 2022-2023 Year: –\$2,198.99
(Deficit MMUN payments from 2022-23 are still being made by families)
 - For 2023-2024: \$14,974.00
 - Balance at end of April: –\$2,717.40
(pending reimbursement for Elizabeth’s MMUN travel and curriculum purchase)

Note process change for 2024-25: Families will be required to commit to the 2025 MMUN experience prior to the end of the 2023-24 school year and make trip payments throughout the summer. This will allow cash on-hand when the fees are due and reduce or eliminate the need for Elizabeth to borrow funds from the district prior to collecting all family payments.

- Enrollment:
 - Prospective family tours in April = 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
 - Enrollment for 2024-25: 107 (84.9% of capacity)

07 4K	15 First	18 Fourth	5 Seventh
06 Kinder	15 Second	18 Fifth	3 Eighth
	14 Third	6 Sixth	

- We were at 101 students at the Jan 2024 count. If we receive the grant, we need to meet a student count of 121 for the 2024-25 school year. Currently have 104.2 students enrolled for 2024-25 per infinite campus. (4K students are counted as 0.6 for this count, which is why this number is different from what is reported above).

Note: Council requests adjustment of our capacity numbers to reflect our actual space (physical space vs. enrollment caps) for 2024-25 (addition of classrooms) and 2025-26 (post renovation environment)

- Elizabeth is working with Dana White on a digital flyer promoting Wausau's charter schools
- New family visitation day went well, minor modifications noted for next year
- Melissa Mattson, coordinator for Junior Achievement, and others from the JA board awarded WAMCS "super school" designation: 100% of students received JA programming – financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. We are one of six schools in the state to receive this award.

5. District Administration Liaison report (Julie Schell)

- none

6. Faculty/Staff Report (Alisia Jones)

- Getting ready for end of year
 - iReady spring diagnostics are complete (scores will be ready by end of the year)
 - report cards will be digital and available to parents online
- Adolescent class recently went to CVA to do a ceramics class
- Preparing for the Bridging Ceremony which will be held indoor this year

7. Parent Connect Report (Dana Moore)

- Checking balance = \$3,437.18 | Savings = \$11.53. (Total: \$3,448.71)
- Recent expenses for teacher appreciation week, t-shirts for entire school population
- Completed flower fundraiser
- Will be hosting a potluck at Sylvan Hill after the bridging ceremony
- Results of elections:
 - President – Melissa Polebitski
 - VP – vacant
 - Treasurer – Holly Radke
 - Secretary – Dana Moore
- Will be sending out an end of year survey
- Planning for next year will occur in summer

8. WSD School board report

May 13 Regular meeting:

- Considerable public announcement and discussion about EEA position cuts in response to the district's budget deficit
 - Raised question about what head-count would warrant an additional teacher
 - Conversation about need to market our charter schools
- Referendum update: 50% approval of Horace Mann and Montessori approved
- Discussion on transportation bids
- Presentation on grant purchase of multilingual tool (ear-bud style)

Note: Jim Bouche is the board representative currently assigned to Montessori
Governance council expressed interest in presenting some of our successes to the board

9. Officer elections

- Tyler Berg and Cassie Jenson accepted nominations for the position of president (Chris Dietsche and Tiffany Lee declined nominations). Tyler was elected as the new president.
- Cassie Jenson accepted nomination for the position of vice president and was elected.
- Kate Schuster accepted nomination for the position of secretary (Bethany Stookey declined nomination). Kate was re-elected as secretary.

Discussion around the need for a governance council treasurer. Consensus that we do not need to have a governance council treasurer.

For future meeting: review bylaws around frequency of elections and officer term limits

10. Temporary Enrollment Cap

Following discussion, Kate moved to open the available sixth grades seats to any E2-eligible students on a first-come-first-serve basis for the 2024-25 school year. Tiffany seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no further discussion.

12. Discussion/Action Items

- Governance members are asked to review the parent connect bylaws and standing rules by Friday May 24 and direct any feedback to wamcsparentconnect@gmail.com
- Tiffany Lee tendered resignation from the governance council, effective immediately. The council extended gratitude for her leadership.

13. Adjourn

- Tiffany moved to adjourn; Tyler seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion. Meeting ended 7:06.