

Coulee Montessori SET Minutes

April 15, 2025 5:30pm @ Coulee Montessori/Northside Library

IN ATTENDANCE (Board Roster):

Kim Shively	Alexander Kent	Andy Thomes	Mariah Bigelow
Amy Merkey	Kathryn Wiegrefe	Sarah Bradle	Lisa Dillon Alex Hiller

Not present: Sara Horstman, Ann Epstein

Other attendees: Ms Nikki (CH teacher); Ms Maddie (E1 teacher); Jen Kalis

CALL TO ORDER

GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Secretary's Report – Kathryn

Kim made motion to approve, Amy seconded, motion carries

All-day 4K – Jen Kalis

Due to changes with Head Start and lack of collaboration with half-day programs, 4K enrollment dropped dramatically and it was recognized that there was a need to make this an all-day program to be accessible for most families. Legislative changes through Act 15 helped to make it possible to go full day. This is likely to be a permanent change but it will be dependent on state and federal budgets. Parents can still choose to do half days at CM if they prefer, but there will be no mid-day bus service. There will be a part-time TA added who should be able to provide additional help in the Children's House classrooms. The school day will largely be at the discretion of the teachers, but it is expected that there will be some rest time and outdoor play time for the preschoolers in the afternoon.

Principal Report- Sarah Bradle

Open House: Next Tuesday, August 19 from 5:00-6:30. Most of the food is donated and there may be School Resource Officers or firefighters coming to play kickball. Hopefully families will be able to eat outside. There will be facepainting and Amy and Kim will do raffle baskets.

Staffing updates: Still working on hiring. A few have quit, new hires have been made, all regular TAs have been hired. Additional help is needed because of the behavioral

issues seen. We will be expected to have higher class sizes with full-time TAs. Administration will need to determine the right sized classrooms based on individual kids and their needs. Dr Engle wants to see academic gains to show that having more TAs is making a positive impact.

Enrollment: Down to 109. Ended at 120 last year. Anticipating it will increase with the all-day 4K option. Laura called waitlisted kids at other schools to try to draw more here. We should figure out what we need for enrollment so that we can then target our marketing accordingly. The goal should be full classes – 18 in E1, 20 in E2. We need to focus on CH numbers because that will feed all the future grades. CH has a total of 25 right now between both classes and typically it has been higher in the past. We would need maybe 45 to get a 3rd CH. Everywhere in the district is dealing with lack of preschoolers.

Review and Revise Mission & Vision Statement - Kim

These were updated last year but we spent additional time on it, adding and perfecting language in the mission statement. Alex Kent volunteered to look at it on his own time after the meeting to continue improving it.

Goals – Kim

We would like to break down into 3-4 committees and have everyone choose a committee they want to be on. The options could include Student Learning Goals, Fiscal Accountability/Budget Goals, School Promotion Goals, and Fundraising Goals. We will revisit this at our next meeting.

Vice President -Kim

Kim would like a volunteer to be VP and learn the President's role before Kim steps down in Fall of 2026. Ideally this might be a newer person who has several years left on SET.

Promotional Budget for CM – Amy, Alex H, and Kim

There was not much discussion due to limited time. We would like to define this budget and know where to spend it.

Fall Fundraiser/School Community event – Amy

Amy and Kim met over the summer and the decision was made to continue with another Get Movin' fundraiser. We can do it at any time in the year, it does not have to be in the fall. There was a meeting scheduled for the following evening at Chad Erickson Park to

discuss planning an event, possibly a fun run at the school around the block. Amy wants to pass off this role to someone else.

PTO TOPICS

Treasurer's Report – Alex H

Current balances: Over \$19,000. CM made more money than we spent last year. About \$8,000 is for SET, the rest is allocated to the greenhouse. Readathon money was for buying supplies, which is why the school supply list for parents was much smaller this year. Some things need to be ordered soon. Amy will make a list of what is needed and make sure things get purchased this week and have to the school by Open House.

Funding request: Deb Sullivan's STEAM lab. Some items are requested to support the STEAM lab. Materials were not monitored last year and supplies went missing, so we want to know what processes will be different to prevent this from happening again if we pay for new supplies. \$70.80 was approved for basic "needs" for the lab, but more discussion will be had before approving the full amount. More input is needed from others involved.

Open House – Kim, Amy

There is a jobs sign-up form. SET members are the workers for this event. The event is a half hour longer than past years – from 5:00 – 6:30.

Funding Request Form – Alex H

This form can be made available to all teachers, specialists, Title teachers, speech and guidance counselors.

Talent Show Follow-Up – Kim

Ten hours of prep assistance from Kim was approved, she ended up doing 24.5 hours. Her assistance was valuable for both teachers and students – the Talent Show ran much smoother with her help. We should think about what we can hire out to make things better/easier for all. This helps our school.

New Location for Future Meetings

Due to most members living on the south side of La Crosse, future SET meetings will now be at Central High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.