

Coulee Montessori SET Minutes

Sept 16, 2025 5:30pm @ Central High School Commons

IN ATTENDANCE (Board Roster):

Kim Shively	Alexander Kent	Andy Thomes	Mariah Bigelow
Sara Horstman	Ann Epstein	Kathryn Wiegrefe	Sarah Bradle
Alex Hiller			

Not present: Lisa Dillon, Amy Merkey

Other attendees: Ms Sara (E1 teacher)

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jen Cabassa is a parent who knows Spanish and who is willing to be part of a volunteer effort to teach kids Spanish. Ms Maddie and the librarian incorporate some already. Additional foreign language learning could be attractive to parents considering Coulee Montessori for their children. It would be great to find ways to incorporate this without adding additional work for teachers. Rochester Montessori has a well-established Spanish program and may be a resource for learning how to do this. Ann Epstein knows the administrator and will reach out to them.

GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Secretary's Report – Kathryn

Kim made motion to approve, Amy seconded, motion carries

School Performance – Staff

4K has been going well overall, especially thanks to TA support. Their help has been essential. Because of the greater need for help in Children's House, they are the only ones getting TA support. E1 and E2 are not getting this help but are understanding of the need for CH to be priority right now. There currently does not appear to be risk of losing TAs.

Some children are coming in not fully potty trained, which is an added challenge for CH teachers. The Parenting Place may be able to offer parent education to help with this.

E2 is going to ORA trail farms, then camping at Perrot State Park Oct 9-10. Volunteer helpers are welcome!

E1 is planning a planetarium trip, CH is planning a walking field trip to the fire station.

Readathon money was spent on community supplies and that worked well.

Principal Report – Sarah Bradle

Regarding School Safety: The district follows The National Association of School Psychologists PREPaRE curriculum, which is approximately 20 hours of training for administrators and school psychologists. They have safety expectations and regular drills for fire, violence and reunification. All teachers are trained on the protocols for Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate and Shelter. Only one word is used to alert teachers, to avoid scaring kids. The safety team consists of the administrator, custodial staff, nurse, health assistant, psychologist, etc. All doors are key lock only, so barricades should be unnecessary in the event of an active threat. There is also a thorough annual site inspection with a potential risk assessment to identify safety concerns.

Measures are being taken to prevent safety threats to kids and staff, but these things have not been communicated to parents and many parents may feel concerned about their kids' safety while at school. Could there be a separate web page where parents could learn more about what training has been done and what preventative measures are in place? A link to the site could be provided to all parents so that any who are interested in knowing more could do so.

Those looking for more specific information could compile a list of questions for Sarah Bradle.

SET's Google Account Sign-In – Kim

Several SET members were unable to access the Google account because it was sending an authentication code to Kim. She will try to figure out how to fix that.

Fall Party

There is a link to sign up to volunteer. Sara will look into a Potato King donation of bananas, chips, etc. Lisa is lining up the main course. We need to find people to be along the course with games and fun things to encourage kids and make sure they stay safe, especially on Gillette St.

Fall Fundraiser and Torchlight Parade – Sara H

SET Families and E2 and a few others are invited. It would be too much to include the whole school. We are number 75 out of 78. The lineup is determined by order of signing up, so we should remember to do it early next year to get closer to the front.

Breakout Groups

Mission and Vision – part of the group worked on perfecting these statements. Sara Marcou made a motion to approve them, Kathryn seconded, the motion carried.

Advertising Budget – the other part of the group discussed what to focus advertising dollars on. Emphasize community events like Torchlight Parade, Earth Fair, Family Fun Expo. We could leave flyers/brochures at stores and businesses with a QR code to a video. We should update our promotional video. Facebook advertising could also still be part of the budget.

PTO TOPICS

Treasurer's Report – Alex H

Save discussion and vote for detailed annual budget in October meeting. Kim made a motion to approve \$320 for programming at Kickapoo Valley Reserve for E2 students. Alex H seconded, the motion carried. Kim made a motion to approve \$140 for STEAM lab supplies. Alex K seconded, the motion carried.

PT Conference Meals – Kim

SET would like to recruit a parent who is willing to coordinate this once in the spring and once in the fall.

SET will work with NSE PTO to coordinate a meal for Monday. No need for food on Thursday night because it will be done by 6:30. We could still provide snacks for teachers like a meat/cheese, etc. Sara H will represent from SET and work on coordinating and creating a sign-up for this.

Adjourned at 7:45