

Coulee Montessori SET Minutes

April 28, 2026 5:30pm @ Central High School Room 232

IN ATTENDANCE (Board Roster):

Kim Shively	Mariah Bigelow	Amy Merkey
Sara Horstman	Ann Epstein	Kathryn Wiegrefe

Not present: Lisa Dillon, Alexander Kent, Alex Hiller, Andy Thomes, Sarah Bradle

Other attendees: Ms Jenny (E1 teacher)

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary's Report – Kathryn

Kim makes motion to approve, Sara H seconds, motion carries.

School Performance/ Sharing Student Work – Staff

-Kim had gotten information from Montessori Services for Small Hands and wanted to know if the school buys through them. Teachers said yes, their rugs are good quality and Children's House orders through them.

-Summer school – Ms Jenny is running E1, Josh and Sara are running E2, and Mrs Stingle and Ollie Merkey are hopefully available as volunteers to assist. Summer school is Mon-Thurs starting July 6.

-The Plant Sale is May 8-9. Monkey Business (food truck) will be there too.

-Readathon begins Monday, May 4.

-Graduation is June 3 at 1:15.

-There are many field trips and activities coming up before the end of the year: Trane Park, Field Day, Kickapoo Valley Reserve, La Crosse History Field Trip, ORA Trail Farm, La Crosse Parks Tour, Library.

Principal Report – Sarah Bradle

- It is confirmed that Coulee Montessori will be able to continue with TAs in CH.
- Summit specialists are no longer traveling to Coulee Montessori. This is sad news for the school, because those were well-loved teachers. CM will now get Northwoods specialists to teach E1. E2 and CH will have the Northside specialists.
- Kindergarteners and 4K will have separate specials to allow for special teaching time for Kindergarteners and allow for more rest time for 4K'ers.
- There will be some changes in counselors and support staff at the school.
- Enrollment numbers:
 - E2: 16/17, including 9 6th graders!
 - E1: 17/17/18
 - CH: Current registrations: 9 for 4K, 12 for K. More usually come in over the summer so these numbers will likely increase.
- There were 2-3 tours from the Expo and several interested families came to the Earth Fair.

New Member Voting – Kim

There was a letter of interest from a potential new SET member, along with votes for officer roles. Kim sent out a Google doc for everyone to vote through, and asked that everyone get votes in as soon as possible. She will email the results.

Meeting dates and structure for 2026-2027 - Kim

Meeting dates and location were discussed. 1-2 meetings will be at CM/NSE. 4 meetings will be more PTO-heavy, where parents are all encouraged to participate.

Closet cleanout/4th E1 classroom materials – Kim

A storage closet on 2nd floor is filled with classroom materials from when there were four E1 classes and went down to three. The room is so full that staff can't even access the supplies in it. There will be an organization day on July 10 to clear it out and better organize it. All teachers are encouraged to help. Much of what is in this room could be put to use in the other E1 classrooms, and these materials be helpful and appreciated by those teachers. Kim can help with organization as a paid worker to help plan and provide some structure to the day.

Congratulations to Mariah Bigelow!

Mariah won the Herb Kohl award and received a \$6,000 grant for the school. Students want a drinking fountain and some shade on the playground. Perhaps some of the money could be used for this. Mariah also recently completed her doctorate. Congratulations on all your hard work, Mariah! SET and Coulee Montessori are very proud of you and grateful for your contributions.

Treasurer's Report – Alex

-\$75 for 4K field trip bussing was previously approved.

-Emily S. (gym teacher) is requesting \$190 for bussing for the May 1 park field trip, \$34.80 for drink packets and \$150 for field day slip-n-slide rental.

Kim makes motion to approve \$374.80 for Emily's requests Amy seconds, motion carries.

Teacher Appreciation

Discussion was had as to how to show appreciation for teachers and TAs during teacher appreciation week.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm