

Coulee Montessori SET Meeting - October 13th, 2011

Meeting was called to order by Joe Northwood at 5:32 p.m.

Secretary for meeting: Mary Temp

In Attendance:

Joe Northwood, Lori Arndt, Mary Temp, Danielle Sprain, Rebecca Duncanson, Gina Meinertz, Larry Myhra, Laura Huber, Jenny Dellenbach, Michele Cook, Rene Jacobs-Guentner, Mariah-Mia Strong, Josh Shively, Nikki Rislow, Michelle Krajewski, Pete Yocum, Melisa Myers, Lindsey Miller, Joe Alvarado.

1. August meeting minutes approved.
2. Danielle Sprain gave treasurers report.
 - Beginning Balance: \$4,434.93
 - Paid Out (Gina's classroom funds) \$224.55
 - Deposits: (March 2011 book Fair) \$182.21
 - Ending Balance: \$4,392.59

Danielle concerned about outstanding check for \$100 to Ms. Fuchs. Was going to discuss it with her.

3. Introductions were made of all those in attendance.

4. Adolescent Principal's Report by Larry Myhra: Currently 8 - 6th graders, 11-7th graders, and 1-8th grader in Montessori Middle School. Gina gets 90 minute prep time while students go to regular math classes or elective classes. Some students doing advanced math through AMS web. Did have Special Ed teacher/teaching assistant but school district reallocated to a different program. Gina and Kathy Schnitzius helped train math and other teachers in some of the Montessori method. Elective classes include music, health, P.E. and German. Pete Yocum was elected Lincoln PTO liaison and they have promised funding support for the Montessori Middle School Program. The program is prepared to grow at Lincoln but not sure how that will look yet.

5. Updates Adolescent Program by Gina Meinertz: Gina has more community field trips planned for this year. The extra planning time has been a benefit to the program and she is using extra time she has gained in the classroom for small group and individual instruction. Pete Yocum expressed concerns about coordination of homework, fieldtrips, and Montessori events. Gina explained that some field trips like Eagle Bluff had to be pre-booked last year but felt that less conflicts of events would occur in the future. Gina explained how she was still incorporating math into her program and also like the AMS math program. Larry, Gina, and several parents all thought interactions between Lincoln's other middle school students and the Montessori middle school students were very positive.

Gina had a meeting with the Hixton-Myrick Ecopark. Park staff expressed some concerns about coordinating with the school but are interested in continued dialog. The adolescent program is in the process of taking over the food pantry at Lincoln. They are also doing a service learning program with the Food Co-op to get day old bread and distribute to families in need. Work at the Washburn garden was also discussed.

6. Update Fundraising Committee by Joe Northwood: Coffee and Fudge fundraising information to go out on the 14th. All orders are due on the 20th. Original works will be going out at the end of the month in time for Christmas and will be sending out an option for the middle students.

7. Update District Wide Parent Committee by Mary Temp and Michelle Krajewski: Had two meetings since our last meeting. During the meetings several programs were discussed, including Safe routes to school, School Lunch Program, and the New Years Eve Big Family event. The committee would like to get at least 5 volunteers per school to help with the New Year's Eve event and have a themed basket donated for the silent auction. Parent organizations will not be selling food this year and the committee is looking into attractions that will get older students involved. Budget concerns were also discussed for the school district.

8. Update Outreach Committee by Rebecca Duncanson: Committee changes include Gina being a new co-chair with Chandra Cox. The committee would like to provide food for the teachers during conferences again this year and passed around a sign up sheet to help. Outreach will be doing a pumpkin carving event in conjunction with the Northside School on Oct. 25th at Roosevelt in the lunchroom. The committee is working on the Annual Veterans Day Celebration with the Northside School for November 7th at Franklin and is coordinating the Christmas Dance on Dec. 9th. Josh Shively volunteered to D.J. dance.

Advertising for the visitation day in February was discussed. The committee is coordinating phone trees in the classrooms for volunteers. The Rotary Lights parade float was discussed. Some concerns about last years planning and the parade float were discussed. A sign up at parent teacher conferences was planned for volunteers. Committee plans on selling t-shirts and bumper stickers. Committee request for monies was discussed under new business.

9. Follow up from family night by Laura Huber: About 150 people showed up for family night to do volcanoes. E1 teachers and Danielle did an excellent job and it was a huge success. Demonstrations from Michelle were very informative and well received. November 17th Family Fun Night will be apple sauce making.

10. Update from Laura Huber on non-profit status. The 501c 3 has been submitted with an amendment and new filing fee.

11. No update from Northside PTO

12. New Business Funding Request:

Approved \$400.00 Josh Shively request for bussing funds for upcoming field trip to Iowa
Approved \$65 to \$80 Outreach committee for pumpkin carving. Some money should be reimbursed by donations. Receipts to be turned in within 20 days.

Approved \$100 Outreach committee for food to feed teacher for conferences. Receipts to be turned in within 20 days.

Money for Visitation ad deferred until find out actual cost. Looking at La Crosse Tribune, Coulee Parenting, and Parenting Place.

13. Rene' Jacobs-Guentner to facilitate December 15th business meeting.

14. Meeting adjourned 7:10 p.m.