

## **Coulee Montessori Governance Board Minutes**

January 15, 2015; held at Lincoln Middle School

### **Call to order at 5:37**

**Attendance:** Ann Epstein, Erin Hoy, Becky Misch, Bennett Myers (Skype), Kim Shively, Danielle Sprain, Roger Staffaroni (Skype), Melissa Murray  
Teacher reps: Nikki Rislow, Josh Shively

**Guests in attendance/Public Comment:** Rebecca Duncanson, Vie Matty

### **Secretary's Report:**

1. MSP

### **Board Education (Kim Shively)**

We are considered to be a school of “instrumentality” – we are part of the school district. “Non-instrumentalities” are not part of school district in the same way. See governance PowerPoint for details.

### **Teacher's report**

Nikki Rislow: 9 families signed in for Visitation in December, most heard through word of mouth. Postcards did go to Coulee Montessori, info was left at LCPM and Parenting Place. Most were interested in Children's House, one interested in E1. CMAP numbers are comparable to last year – considered to be a good number for maintaining 1.5 fte. No post cards or fliers sent. Advertised through district web-site.

Classroom report: snowman works of art, focus is on seasons and months of the year. Daily sharing is occurring now during line time. Added daily weather report, talked about why not able to go outside. One student uses thermometer, children encouraged to write report

**Treasurer's report:**

Beginning balance:	\$ 6222.75,
Paid out	\$ 1237.29
Deposit	\$1779.63
End balance:	\$ 6765.09

1. MSP

### **Principal Murray's Report:**

- Many awesome things occur in building, Adolescents are part of this, for example “Lego League”. Nine's class is quite independent. Some requests to PTO. Quiet year so far. Kim offered to answer questions re: adolescent program.

### **Principal Huber's Report:**

- K enrollment: 21 applicants, all indicated prior exp and/or sibs. Total of 24 spaces to fill. Of 21 applicants may have expressed interest in other schools. Principals from other schools will meet to discuss, letters go out in early Feb. Unaware of applicants for higher grade levels. Enrollment overall for year is consistent. Summer school at Northside, July 6 – 31, mornings. For current students only. Seems that 4 year-old numbers are not in yet.
- Weather Academy, Jan 22
- Dance, Feb 17

**District-Wide Parent Committee:**

1. No report

**Fund Raising Committee: Danielle Sprain**

1. Egg roll sale: \$1154.87.
2. Kwik Trip milk caps: \$409. 35, box tops checks should be arriving soon of \$253.75
3. Feb 12 – soup supper, 4:30 – 7:00, looking for donations (soup, bread, juice, milk, desserts)
4. Last event is Original Works, items ordered in April, delivery for early May 2015
5. Looking into Kwik Trip Scrip, Coupon Books, Dine/No Whine nights, evening at High Rollers

**Outreach Committee:**

1. No report available
2. Email addresses are needed in parent directory.
3. Discussion ensued regarding website challenges – difficulty accessing information.

**Education Committee: Ann Epstein**

1. Montessori conference held Jan 9 -10, feedback is positive, formal “de-briefing” will be held next week with UW-L Continuing Education staff; Danielle recommended Paul Epstein as keynote speaker for La Crosse district PD in August
2. Discussion re: inviting Paul to present workshop to Coulee staff, families and board members; current topic is “Whole Child/Whole School”; he is happy to adapt to Coulee needs; charge: \$250.00/hour but is flexible; Ann and Kim will develop possible ideas for board to consider in March (next meeting)

**Old/Unfinished Business**

1. Charter – sections 3, 4, and 5 were sent. Other sections were shared in November. Sara (and teachers from Children’s House, E1, and E2) completed wording on programs. Thank you to staff on their thorough and excellent writing of these sections of the charter. Sections 3, 4, and 5 include:
  1. Description of Educational Programming:
  2. Methods School will Use for Pupils to Attain Educational Goals
  3. Assessment: how above will be measured. Some assessments are mandated by state.
    1. Question: Do we need to state that we administer PALS? Melissa has asked this question.
    2. Teachers recommend putting in “standardized reading assessments”, remove “Badger Assessment” – idea is to remove specific titles of tests in case they change in upcoming years

Melissa will send sub-committee specific areas to review, with 5 day limit. She will ask for comments, put them into a google doc, and then committee will complete a final review.

2. Nine Dodge presented overview of PAWS – positive achievement within schools, quarterly, recognition of students who received As/Bs and/or perfect attendance. Staff can nominate students who they have seen lots of growth in. Occurs quarterly. Nine does not think they should participate. Nine does participate in Student of the Month. Her class also participates in PBIS (positive behavior intervention system). They do this as well – viewed as a chance to celebrate. It is building-wide. Taught at beginning of year, celebration 1/month on early release day. Students allowed to go if they are caught up with work. Students choose to finish work.

Discussion ensued regarding evaluative vs judgmental feedback, need for grades for high school (not needed), 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation (Nine’s class does participate).

### **The board supports the adolescent program decision to not participate in PAWS. MSP**

3. Kim shared enrollment projections for each year through 2020-2021; discussion ensued regarding
  - ▲ early adolescent program
  - ▲ numbers shown are a best case scenario
  - ▲ impact of 6<sup>th</sup> grade placement based on enrollment projections, room space available at NS
  - ▲ 2 E2 teachers needed for next year (42 students anticipated)
  - ▲ Kim will inquire about whether north side boundaries will be realigned and the number of open enrollment students at Northside
4. As per discussion from November meeting, minutes from SET meetings should not be posted to the public until approved by board. (Communicated from Superintendent Nelson and Assoc. Superintendent Janet Rosseter) Board will experiment with approving minutes via email vote for quicker posting.

### **New Business**

1. Laura seeking 1 or 2 volunteers to be on the following committees
  - ▲ a school-wide art project representing Montessori philosophy.
  - ▲ Playground equipment. **Contact Laura if you are interested in either of these committees.**
2. Kim provided list of members whose terms are up in May: Kim, Danielle, Ann, and Becky. Kim and Danielle will go off the board as they have served back-to-back two year terms. Two new members are needed to replace them. Kim asked current board members to invite potential new members from community. Be ready to brainstorm ideas. Ann has indicated she would like to continue on the board.

### **Announcements:**

- Staff person for Deep Roots is Josh Shively
- Next meeting is in March. **Kim requested board members send her any items of business that need to be addressed before the end of the year asap.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:14.