

Coulee Montessori SET Minutes

October 17, 2023 5:30pm @ Coulee Montessori/Northside Library

IN ATTENDANCE (Board Roster):

Kim Shively	Willie Bittner	Alexis Brandow	Cami Fuller
Alex Hiller	Deanna Maynard	Amy Merkey	Kathryn Wiegrefe
Mariah Bigelow	Sarah Bradle	Sara Horstman	

All present at meeting except: Willie Bittner, Amy Merkey and Sarah Bradle

Other attendees: Jenna Anfang (community coordinator)

CALL TO ORDER

Public Comment - None scheduled

GOVERNANCE TOPICS

School performance/sharing student work –

-Having a 4th E1 class has been great. It's much calmer. Each class has 1-2 difficult kids, so it is much easier to manage with smaller class sizes and that is helping the teachers to be more effective this year. There are 12-13 kids per class, down from 18 last year.

-Ms Madeline is doing great in her new class. The group is very cohesive and the team works well together. It's a great group.

-Started reading groups, spread out through the 4 classrooms

-Easier to think about doing field trips with the smaller groups

-Each classroom is prioritizing needs/wants to spend the \$3,000 that was approved. Alex will get the credit card to Mariah so she can purchase. Questions on how to get the purchases to be tax-free. SET is a 501(c)3 so it should be qualified. Teachers should ask the supplier about this when they are ordering.

-Jenna is trying to find new ways to support families, and how to get families to come into the school, like have an open food pantry rather than sending bags of food home. Next family night is reading-focused, with a prize from Pearl St Books.

Principal Report --

-Sarah Bradle wasn't in attendance but had sent out comments in advance. We started the discussion about the ideal location for CM and noted how many students came from outside the Northside boundary. The report card will be discussed at the next meeting.

Directory Update --

54 families have opted into the directory, up from 45 prior to conferences. There was discussion on how to make it a document that could continue to get edited or added onto if more families want to add their information. Discussion on how to keep it secure but still accessible and only editable by approved administrators. Just emails and phone numbers will be used this year, and physical addresses will be left off. Sara and Deanna have volunteered to work on it.

Work on our facility document from 2022--

There was extensive discussion on how elementary school closures would impact CM, and how to advocate for the best scenario for our families and students.

-Bus route is terrible—over an hour for south side kids. Moving to Summit would likely only add to that time.

-State Road and Summit have the best green space

-Is it a goal to grow back CMAP? If it were possible to have it in the same building, it would be a good opportunity.

-Many SET members have a preference for State Road, and have concerns about how far away Summit is. Access to nature is good, nature preserve, trail farm, etc. The district has not brought up the idea of State Road, but has brought up Summit.

-State Road is not considered low income. There would be a loss of Title services and free breakfast and lunch for all students. Those who qualify for free/reduced lunch could still apply.

-It would be great to do a survey to find out perspectives of the community for where to move to. Not sure what reasons Hogan has for preferring Summit.

-The Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the closing of two elementary schools is in November. Maybe no announcement about closings until March. The School Board makes the decision.

-We want to meet with Shelly at Hogan. We want to keep it friendly and just start asking questions. Maybe meet at Hogan? Kim will ask Shelly about Nov 7 or 14 and will send out the questions to SET.

-North Woods will keep IB program going, and this has to stay a separate program so there probably wouldn't be room for all in the current building.

-We need to get the administration to see us as an asset—if CM is in a desirable location and can pull more students from other districts, it will become a money-maker for the district.

-We could do a survey to current CM families with 3-5 questions on their thoughts and preferences on moving to a different location, and run them past Sarah Bradle prior to sending out.

-What changes or alterations would need to be made at Summit or another school if the Montessori school were to move, in order to maintain the philosophy? Need to keep this in mind.

Group photo – postponed until Amy can be in it

PTO TOPICS

Secretary's report --

Kim makes a motion to approve, Alexis seconds, motion carries. The report needs to be sent to Krista to post on school website, preference for PDF format.

Treasurer's report --

-Josh and Mariah are hoping to do E2 at Deep Roots once a month and looking into grants. There is a \$260 fee per time, plus bus expenses of an estimated \$150-\$180 per trip. Having SET pay for bussing is helpful in making the grant request.

-Kim makes a motion to approve, Alexis seconds, motion carries.

All-school fundraiser –

-Over halfway to goal as of this morning. A few slots are still open on the sign-up for helping with the hike.

Deep Roots field trip request --

-It won't work for all of CM to go. They were hoping to go in community groups, but Deep Roots can only take 45 at a time.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:25pm.