

CEMA | SCHOOL COUNCIL | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 10/5/2020 3:32 PM | Meeting location Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Chairperson	Sarah Smith
Principal	Tanya Melville
Teachers	Wonda Goodwin, Trent Kissinger
Parents	Jenn Bailey, Yael Elfassy, Amanda Fanelli, Brendan Ferrara, Melanie Finnegan (PTA), Holly McCormick (PTA), Gloria Rigsbee, Nick Rintye, Suzy Wallace (MESS)
Business/Community Partners	Melody Burks, Lynn Franklin

Guest and others attending

Agenda topics

TOPIC	DISCUSSION and Summary*
OPENING: INSPIRATION	<p style="text-align: center;">Inspiration – provided by Ms. Lynn</p> <p>Our world is made of 3 elements Earth - Air - and Water. If we use these elements as a guide we can solve anything. Like the Earth we need to hold firmly rooted to what we are focused on. Just as air moves freely through space, we need to be the breeze that spreads our message to those who can make it happen. Most important of all as water takes the shape of the space it is in. We have to be willing to mold to the situation that will allow us to reach our goals.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Matthew Kelly</p>
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:	<p>Minutes provided for special called meeting 8/13/2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve the minutes, by Brendan • 2nd by Melody • Minutes approved to be filed
Principal's Report	<p>Update on Return to Learning Phase 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently there are 5 certified staff in the building, 1 with a delayed start and there are 4 paras • First day went very smoothly, although there were some difficulties in getting everyone where they needed to be with different levels and teachers • Functioning as facilitators - working on creating extra activities for the children to do in between lessons • Not a lot of time to prep activities and prepare lessons during the day • Hybrid handbook was sent to all parents with children enrolled in this phase; tangible document that will continue to be updated/revised as needed • Still awaiting guidance from the district if masks are required at all time

	<p>while outside on the playground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Deidre donated water bottles to the school for the children to use, since they are currently not permitted to drink directly from drinking fountains • Everyone attending in person at school has been issued a school device due to networking issues • Ms. Laura is still working on the Montessori to Go boxes • Students are currently focused on the virtual instruction and they are so independent with and “I’m here and ready to go” positive attitude <p>How was the internet during the day?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not sure of any connectivity issues, the main focus and concern was on getting all the kids on the correct Zoom meeting <p>Were there issues with the iPads?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, due to issues with the iPads and platform compatibilities we went with chromebooks, instead of the iPads <p>Changes in hierarchy are still in the works and in getting things fully streamlined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Beth and Ms. Lisa are working on straightening out issues and anticipate being fully on track next week <p>GOALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on being engaging • Creating a calendar with links for all synchronous and asynchronous courses and access to utilizing consistency across all levels • Full use of ItsLearning will be introduced on 10/12 with full implementation by 10/16 • Provide updates for all other parents on the transition to in-person instruction – detailed information can be found in the handbook in the school newsletter • Looking forward to the start of Quarter 2, which begins next week – no school Friday or Monday
<p><i>Old Business</i></p>	<p>Transparent Classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers are using it to continue to track work and progress • All conferences will be taking place through Transparent Classroom <p>AMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to pay dues • Proposal for a 3 year old program hopeful in working toward a new normal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a person/group to advocate and articulate plan to propose/present to Dr. Levette • Ms. Tanya will work with Suzy and may pull in Sam as a reference • Sarah offered to be an editor for documents prior to being submitted/presented • Really need to push forward to be able to be included in the lottery for the 2021-2022 academic year, as work typically begins on that in November

<p><i>New Business</i></p>	<p>Health & Wellness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently the requirement for teachers is masks only – Yael recommended a face shield as well, as it helps with spreading for things such as sneezing; it will offer the most protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Tanya will share this information with the administration. There are still some leftover from the PTA provided shields for the drive by celebration • Looking to find the most effective ways to appropriately sanitize materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lynn mentioned another Montessori program that is having the students clean and sanitize items following use. • Yael share that hand sanitizing prior to and after use of materials will help with addressing the transmission • Trying to create a plan and waiting on directives from the district on what would be permitted • Focusing on the teaching aspect of sanitizing as being a practical life skill <p>Ms. Tanya will reach out to Yael and Holly for feedback prior to Phase 3</p> <p>School Council Business Member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position is appointed by the council • Sarah presented Bonnie Bhonsle as a potential candidate. She self-nominated for school council works with Risen Savior Christian Academy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask for her to provide some information on her role as a business member, in contrast to that as a parent member • Inform her that there are no term limits for business/community members <p>Perhaps invite her to attend our next meeting as a guest prior to fully deciding, help ensure it will be a good fit</p>
<p><i>Partner Updates</i></p>	<p>PTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting our focus on building community and supporting teachers and families during this time and transition • Full list of PTA Updates provided – pdf file attached <p>MESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual trainings, meetings and seminars are still happening for staff • Trying to pull of a fall photo fundraiser – information to come soon if they are able to get enough volunteers • Unsure if there will be any in-person training offered in the new year • Ms. Christy, Ms. Michelle and Ms. Tanya attended a workshop by Montessori Partners for Georgia in partnership with MESS, where they took a look at data and where inequities may lie (a Montessori school in Texas and one in St. Louis also participated) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin work on SMARTY goals to include inclusion and equity
<p><i>Reflections</i></p>	<p>A true view on optimism...</p> <p>We recently celebrated by Dad's 80th birthday and for his gift, we got him binoculars. He was so excited so he could watch the birds or the neighbors</p>

	<p>(hahaha!) He signed a warranty for them and signed one for 30 years – not 10 or 15, but 30 – truly optimistic! I believe this is what we do with Montessori; we are extending our warranty everyday.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Ms. Tanya</p>
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Meeting adjourned 4:26pm

Submitted by: Gloria Rigsbee