

CEMA | SCHOOL COUNCIL | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 12/7/2020 3:35 PM | Meeting location Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Chairperson	<i>Sarah Smith</i>
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

Guest and others attending

Bonny Bhonsle	
Catie Pizzichemi	

Agenda topics

TOPIC	DISCUSSION and Summary*
OPENING: INSPIRATION	<p style="text-align: center;">Inspiration – provided by Ms. Lynn</p> <p>Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes – including you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Mary Oliver</p>
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:	<p>Minutes provided for meeting held 10/5/2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve the minutes, by Brendan • 2nd by Jenn • Minutes approved to be filed
Principal's Report	<p>Update on Return to Learning Phase 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently ¼ of staff set to return • Today is the last day for teacher exceptions to be submitted to the district – as of now, 6 teachers have applied for exception • January 5-8 all students will begin virtually – beginning January 11 we will begin in person with Cohort A (Monday/Tuesday), remaining all virtual on Wednesday, in person with Cohort B (Thursday/Friday) • Teachers will be back in the building and will be teaching all classes simultaneously • The Montessori approach is so differentiated with 3 grades/classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 3 grades in each class • Different work groups within those grades • Tech becomes a challenge with multiple programs concurrently • 196 additional chromebooks have been received – we are now at a 1:1 ratio • Still waiting to hear on laptops and webcams for teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some teachers have purchased document cameras or are using apps for phone access

- Maybe having one document camera/pod would be helpful
- Greatest challenge – how to address all 3 groups during daily instruction
 - Once they have returned, we will reassess – we will begin with the current schedule to help with consistency and ease of transition
- Do not anticipate much change in terms of teachers/classes, but things are not yet permanent
- In the winter, just under half the students are planning to return
 - A total of 224 / Cohort A – 114 and Cohort B – 110
 - We do not anticipate more than 10 children/class
- Auxiliary staff will be added to primary group for additional support
- The breakdown by area include:
 - Lower Elementary – 8 (double classes)
 - Upper Elementary – 6 (4 are double classes)
 - Erdkinder – 2 (community groups)
 - Primary – 0
 - 26 classrooms and 6 common spaces
- Contact tracing going well
- Explorations and GEP will remain virtual
- PE and Music will alternate in person
- Four explorations will be included in the rotation and 2/3 will be asynchronous
- Will there be opportunities for Cohort C (virtual) students to return in person for the Spring quarter?
 - Currently, the decision is to remain virtual for the full semester
 - We will advocate for a 4th quarter return if there is interest

Facility/Safety Updates

- Will all classes be equipped with air purifiers?
 - Vanessa Kaegler and Randy West were notified after the conversation with Holly in September of request
 - The current focus is on the chiller above the new class space
 - Sent a follow-up 2 weeks ago and still waiting on a response from the district
 - School council should perhaps reach out regarding this to the district.
 - Also note, the ongoing maintenance to air purifiers and the quarterly replacement of filters
- There are two approaches
 - The district response to a new unit
 - Upgraded filters for the HVAC system – individual air purifiers
 - Letter should be submitted to Ms. Kaegler and Mr. West and copy Dr. Levett, Kay Akins and Julien Childers
 - Perhaps the CARES Act could be used to cover the basic need for enhanced filtration

COVID Team Updates

- District is supplying us with sanitizer, extra masks and 5 thermometers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently working on a schedule for arrival/dismissal • Will update the Hybrid Handbook, as needed <p>Montessori Materials Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right now we will implement as we have been, then adjust to the advancement of working with materials once students are back in the building • Ms. Laura is continuing to work on individual boxes/kits for students in the building to use <p>Lunch Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunches are being delivered from SAA and then distributed to the classes • Can lunch be moved outdoors? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time will be spent outside as much as possible, but with lunches, schedules are a bit more difficult to work with, but we can perhaps look at that as an option • In regards to outdoors, we are looking at walking field trips to be able to use Circle Park <p>*As of now, volunteers are still not permitted into the building</p>
Old Business	<p>AMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dues have not been paid – do not pursue at this time • 3 year old program is a mute point because it has not been included in the lottery conversation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perhaps this should be put on hold and we continue to move forward with next year and it can be revisited at a later time
New Business	<p>Mr. Trent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to offer a true appreciation of support Looking to find the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things have been very stressful and we anticipate big changes with the next phase • Taking into account things happening at home and new experiences, the Ellis community has been great with their display of grace courtesy
Partner Updates	<p>PTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming events include Popsicles in December and Boosterthon T-shirt distribution in front of the school December 12-13 from 12pm-2pm • Virtual Festival of Lights • Boosterthon will be a virtual Dance A Thon • New trees being delivered December 17 • Full list of PTA Updates provided – pdf file emailed

	<p>MESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual trainings, meetings and seminars are still happening for staff, perhaps in-person training options will be available in the spring • The Fall photo fundraiser was successful
<p><i>Reflections</i></p>	<p>Freedom without organization of work would be useless. The child left free without means of work would go to waste, just as a newborn baby is left free without nourishment would die of starvation. The organization of the work, therefore, is the cornerstone of this new structure of goodness; but even that organization would be in vain without the liberty to make use of it, and without freedom for the expansion of all those energies which spring from the satisfaction of the child's highest activities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Dr. Maria Montessori</p>

Meeting adjourned 4:43pm

Submitted by: Gloria Rigsbee