

CEMA | School Council | MINUTES

Meeting date | time **8/12/2019 3:30 PM** | Meeting location **CEMA Media Center**

Attendees:

Chairperson	<i>Suzy Wallace (interim)</i>
Principal	Tanya Melville
Teachers	Trent Kissinger, Wonda Goodwin
Parents	Samantha Allman, Gloria Rigsbee, Daniella Brigman, Holly McCormick (PTA), Brenda Ferrara, Amanda Finelli
Business/Community Partners	Lynn Franklin, Melody Burks

Guest and others attending

AGENDA TOPICS

TOPIC	DISCUSSION and Summary*
OPENING: INSPIRATION	<p style="text-align: center;">Inspiration, provided by Ms. Lynn Franklin</p> <p>“Children are born with a sense of wonder and an affinity for nature. Properly cultivated, these values can mature into ecological literacy and eventually into sustainable patterns of living.” Zenobia Barlow, Center for Ecoliteracy</p>
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:	The minutes from the May 22, 2019 retreat were approved.
President’s Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Education: Ms. Tanya and Ms. Kirsten formed a committee to start a parent education program. The first event will be a screening of “Inside Montessori” on Sept. 12 from 6-9pm at Garrison • Open house: went well. Executive Director James Heater and Interim Director of School Improvement Bernadette Gomez-Crow were present • Enrollment: is good – 471 students; we are able to add one Lower Elementary teacher • Staffing: Ms. Angela Plant is new technology instructor; Ms. Allie Barnes-Spivey replaces Ms. Shannon Ruhe as Lower EI teacher. 2 open GEP positions (Ms. Maria will take one of the positions). Ms. Natalie Munro returns from maternity leave on Aug. 26. Ms. Rene Carter Woods is new Upper EI teacher. Ms. Jane Emmett is new SPED teacher. Ms. Jade has agreed to stay through Aug. 30. We received an “above allotment” for three additional paraprofessionals. • MAP Data: Growth from EOY 2018. 233% high average and above for 1st Grade Math; 200% growth high average and above for K Reading. 1st highest K-8 for Science; 2nd highest for ELA; 3rd highest for Math. Individual scores should be released soon.
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent Classroom: All teachers fully committed. MESS representatives spoke with Dr. Levett about funding. It is not budgeted for the 2019-2020 year. PTA has been requested to contribute. Over the past year, teachers have been looking at Montessori “power lessons” and how to align with district standards. • Assessments: Still looking to mitigate the number of assessments with our District Representative

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMS Certification: MESS met with Dr. Levett and discussed the certification hold up because Ellis does not offer a 3-year cycle that includes 3 year olds. Peter Peché, Leadership Consultant with AMS Pathways, has not yet received letter from SCCPSS District explaining that the district does not currently offer 3-year-old instruction. *Tanya has followed up with Dr. Levett. At this point, Ellis can move forward with AMS Certification without the 3-year primary cycle, but we will need it for ultimate certification. • Campus Safety: We are on a list (but not on the high priority list) for a new front vestibule. However, Duane Shore was in the building measuring for plans. Those plans go to the state for approval before implementation. • Playgrounds: Dravion Jones will meet with vendors so that we can get a new contract for shade sails for the rear playground. *Tanya will reach out to James Heater to see who provided shade sails for Garrison. Front Playground: On hold.
<i>New Business</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front Door Safety: Until the vestibule is in place, need a protocol to ensure interim safety. Reestablish a protocol for front desk personnel who answer buzzer. • Traffic Safety: Gloria and Amanda both voiced concerns about busses and lack of visibility at busy intersections. • Parent Education: Council will explore parent contract in handbook to see if we can require parent education (specifically Montessori-based education). • Officer Elections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sarah Smith, Chairman ○ Brendan Ferarra, Vice Chairman ○ Gloria Rigsbee, Secretary • Appointments: Denise Grabowski, Business Partner • Next meeting will be on October 21 at 330pm in the Media Center
<i>Partner Updates</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Membership applications are available online this year ○ First General meeting is Thursday, August 15 at 6pm in the MPR ○ Dates for events have been finalized, and calendar is on PTA website • MESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1st group of cohorts has been certified ○ Tanya has completed her certification! ○ Several more teachers are currently in training ○ Inside Montessori screening on Sept. 12 (see President’s Report)
<i>Reflections</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “When prejudice is vanquished by knowledge, then there will appear in the world a ‘superior child’ with marvelous powers which today remain hidden. Then there will appear the child who is destined to form a humanity capable of understanding and controlling our present civilization.” Maria Montessori