

CEMA School Council Minutes

October 21, 2019, 3:30 p.m. Media Center

Attendance:

Sarah Smith – Chairperson

Tanya Melville – Principal

Wonda Goodwin and Trent Kissinger – Teachers

Daniela Lee Bringman, Brendan Ferrara, Holly McCormick (PTA), Amanda Finnelli, Suzy Wallace Karpf, and Gloria Rigsbee – Parents

Denise Grabowski and Lynn Franklin – Business/Community Partners

Meeting called to order at 3:36 p.m..

Inspiration: “Mystery created wonder and wonder is the basis of man’s desire to understand.” Neil Armstrong (provided by Ms. Lynn)

Approval of Minutes: Minutes corrected and approved from the meeting 8/12/19

Principal’s Report

- Reviewing statistics and BOY data to assist in catering lessons/instructions to students. Each grade level will be focusing on strategies and creating afterschool/morning tutorials.
- Fall MAP testing will begin November 13th – Data is used to assist with early intervention and IEP, as well as classwork. Students that are being identified in Lower Elementary with higher scores will work with Ms. Beverly to challenge and encourage growth.
- Different domains have different weights for GMAS testing and will assist with and honor our Montessori roots with a focus on practice and all strategies in delivery of lessons.
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Observation and reflection vigor – how can we enliven the lessons and increase a higher order of thinking? Work on creating depth of knowledge questions to all lessons to build upon standards set.
- DEVELOP FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS – Essential so we have a way to assess students’ progress from our Montessori teachings. These are being created by our teachers and are assessments not outside of our philosophy. This way we can create measures to identify students’ progress outside of the preset standards.
- MATERIALS – Shelf materials will be developed for Social Studies and Science, based on the weighted areas of GMAS

Old Business

Goal 1: Improve academic achievement

Transparent Classroom

- All conferences will be driven by Transparent Classroom now that “Power Lessons” have been identified. They will be loaded into Transparent Classroom and will then be tightened up and modified to be more streamlined with what applies to us.
- ErdKinder, because of the Houston Curriculum, will use their own system. They are currently not using Transparent Classroom.
- Feedback thus far has been very positive.

AMS Certification

- The accreditation process continues. Due to circumstances out of our control, there have been a few delays moving forward; which has held up the certification certificates for our teachers and has affected our current status with AMS.
 - MESS and Council will reach out to Mr. Heater as a step moving forward with our accreditation on all points being impacted.

Goal 2: Ensure fiscal responsibility

- Ms. Tanya is working on a proposal to have at our next meeting.

Goal 3: Provide a safe and secure environment

- Sun Sails – Recent quote received from the district was over \$70,000, so currently on hold for moving forward. Holly and Sally (PTA) will reach out to address options available. Multiple communications have taken place over the last two years, all with no resolution. Ms. Miller-Kaigler was involved in several email communications and today new facilities staff came to the school and the unfortunately had no update on the sails.
 - However, while they were present, a few other issues were addressed.
 - Since initial renovation, paint has been an issue with paint peeling from walls and trim.
 - Adult sized toilets in restrooms
 - Sail installation still on our radar
 - Air-conditioning in the new wing – including air samples being taken due to moisture
- Front vestibule – No new updates at this time.
- Traffic Concerns – Initial email was forwarded to campus police. Email follow-up will be sent (Amanda & Gloria) specifically asking what guidelines are required for officer presence.

Goal 4: Engage parents and community stakeholders

- Movie Screening – Went very well, but a disappointing response. Mr. Heater was in attendance to offer support. Will try to have another showing in Winter with a focus on colleges and universities.
- Parent Workshops – Overall, the workshops have been very poorly attended. Looking at options to increase attendance. Ideas presented:

- Offer an option to record and view at their convenience. Discussion: not opposed to this as an option, but may lose the potential to have “shared experience” among those that choose to participate.
- Create a teaser to encourage attendance. Discussion: making it a solution-driven approach.
- Have workshops focusing more on philosophy than curriculum, offering a more holistic approach. Focus on the joy of work and spontaneity, love of beauty.
- Utilize the conferences to educate parents and draw them in to what their children are doing.

Partner Updates

PTA

- Printed notes provided which included: Fall Membership drive, currently at 170 with a goal of 200; Role Model Reader Day 10/22; Reflections showcase to be held 10/23 at PERC Coffee – 20 submissions were received – Kudos to Amanda Fanelli to coordinate; Fall Festival 10/25 with assistance from SAA and ErdKinder students – volunteers still needed; Read-A-Thon begins in November; Greenery sale has begun and closes 11/4; Next PTA meeting 11/7 with Chazitos Food Truck.
- PTA has \$12,000 allocated for Shade Sails. Still waiting for clarification of overall funding for shade sails from the district.
- Fall Teacher Grants were awarded in September and “Do Good Things” Grant awarded to students will be announced at Fall Festival.

MESS

- Photo shoots are up and running! Some spots still available.
- Holiday party TBD. More info to come.
- Mr. Shaun’s training is being supported by MESS; as well as a handful of other teachers that are almost wrapped up!

New Business

- Ellis will be hosting the Georgia Accreditation meeting on November 4, as well as providing meals. Will reach out to PTA for possible support.

Reflection: “Barefoot through the bazaar, and with the same undulant grace as the cloth blown back from her face, she glides with a stone jar high on her head and not a ripple in her tread. Watching her cross erect stones, garbage, excrement and crumbs of glass in Karachi slums, I, with my stoop, reflect they stand most straight who learn to walk beneath a weight.” Sindhi Woman by Jon Stallworthy (provided by Ms. Tanya)

Meeting adjourned 5:07 p.m.

Gloria Rigsbee