



JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Montessori Borealis Site Council



10014 Crazy Horse Drive • Juneau, Alaska 99801 • (907) 463-1700 • Fax: (907) 463-1963

Date and Time of Meeting: November 16, 2009, 5:45 pm

Members Present: Dayna Weiler, Adriana Bothelo, Alicia Smith, Laury Scandling, Stephanie Allison, Tori Talley, Barbara Thurston, Darla Madden, and Cory Crossett (arrived at 6:20)

Members Absent: Anastasia Tarmann, Chris Trostel

Guests Present: Stephanie Kohlhase, Lupita Alvarez (arrived at 6:40)

Routine Business

The minutes from the 10/19/09 meeting were approved.

Darla Madden was asked for issues and concerns of hers, since she'd missed the last meeting. She mentioned:

- The lockdown a couple of weeks ago of JDHS and the Marie Drake building
- A need for a calendar of events
- Facility needs
- Counseling do we have it or not? Answer: we don't have it this year – we have an extra gym class each week instead. A counselor is available to talk to the class or a student if needed.

Old Business

Open seat on the Site Council: Letters have been sent to Frieda Westman, Brad Flitsch, and Linda Augustine inviting them to become site council members. If we don't receive a response from them soon, we'll send invitations to Dr Perez and Marie Olson (Laury will check on Marie's email address). Other suggestions include Albert Reinhardt, Melissa Morgan, & Dana Focht from Head Start.

Safety: The timing of the blinker light on Glacier Highway has been changed and seems to be working for Montessori. Is it working correctly for JDHS? Not sure.

Stephanie sent notes to the Harborview and Yaakoosge Principals regarding concerns about student safety in the cemetery.

Anastasia was not at the meeting, so will report next month on her contacts with other schools' site councils regarding street safety.

Outreach and community building: Alicia discussed some suggestions that she and Anastasia brainstormed that could help with community building. Their thoughts included:

- Activities should not unreasonably impose on parents and teachers
- Potlucks are good, but can be a burden on families and teachers
- “Show me nights” – kids and parents come to school and parents get to see what their kids do all day could be interesting and help parents learn about their kids’ classrooms
- Something fun – rock dump, pool, etc could help families feel more a part of the community
- The site council will plan to meet in August to start planning dates for next year

The site council decided that a previously scheduled pot-luck in January be a parent education night. We will have our first show-me night on February 23. Other activities will be scheduled later.

The site council discussed a suggestion that the Montessori Minute be reinstated in paper form (instead of just on the blog), and formally requested that the teachers make that change.

New Business

Hot Salsa/Cool Ballroom: Stephanie Kohlkase discussed the Hot Salsa/Cool Ballroom fundraiser for Juneau Montessori School. It’s scheduled for 2/6/10 and includes a catered dinner. JMS wants to contact Montessori Borealis parents and see if they want to help sell or buy tickets. The site council agreed that it would be acceptable for JMS parents to contact Montessori Borealis families on an individual basis to make that request.

The “Artist in the School” this year will be dance instruction and is scheduled for 2 weeks before the Salsa dance

Lockdown: Laury filled in the site council on the situation regarding the lockdown a couple of weeks ago that was done in response to a reported threat by a JDHS student against a Yaakoosge student. Some mistakes in handling were made by JSD staff (for example, central office didn’t send an all-staff email explaining the lockdown and the rumor mill went wild). Laury called OIS and told them to tell Montessori there was a problem and that our kid should stay in classrooms. The Montessori classroom doors were locked and kids were escorted to the bathroom.

Montessori parents were not notified at the time, though JDHS and Yaakoosge ones were. Montessori families are now able to be segregated on the phone system, so this could be done in the future. It would be good for our teachers to have access to the phone broadcast system – Laury will check into this.

District info from Laury Scandling:

There is a proposed draft of next year’s school district calendar – she’ll send us a copy for our comments. Feedback to the district is requested by December 1.

The calendar proposal includes a late start to the school day (45 minutes) for collaboration on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Research shows that time is really helpful. The district is currently using stimulus money to bring in people to provide supervision to students and enrichment in elementary schools. Different schools are using that time and money differently. There was a brief discussion of how our teachers fit in, and whether they are receiving collaboration time. Laury will call Dave Stoltenberg and check on that.

There is a new MAP assessment which is used across the district and is not high stakes. Our children will be participating in this.

Laury handed out exhibits showing the current demographic breakdown for Montessori and the district as a whole. We have a much higher percentage of special education students than we have had in the past (we're actually just higher than the district average), but have not increased our percentage of Native or low income students. We discussed inviting Kitty Eddy to talk with us regarding how to help the program appeal more to Native families.

Barb Mecum (DZ principal) proposed a "partnership" – we get counselors, books, etc and they would be held harmless when students choose an alternative program or Floyd Dryden over DZ. It isn't clear what such a partnership would entail (or how we could benefit), and we will invite her to a future meeting (January?) to discuss her thoughts and concerns.

For the next meeting

Future meetings: The December meeting will be held on the 2nd Monday (12/14), due to the winter break.

The meeting ended at approximately 7:30 pm.