



JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Montessori Borealis Site Council



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Date and Time of Meeting: February 8, 2010, 5:45 pm

Members Present: Debbie Chalmers, Adriana Bothelo, Alicia Smith, Laury Scandling, Stephanie Allison, Mary Jane Tenney, Tori Talley, Barbara Thurston, Anastasia Tarmann

Members Absent: Darla Madden

Guests Present: Lupita Alvarez, Thea Howard, Susan Erben

Routine Business

Quorum and Minutes: Quorum was met, and we adopted minutes from December 14, January 18, and January 29.

Discussion Items

Website: The Montessori website is up and running, we can be found under “elementary schools”, “middle schools”, and “options programs”. Let Barbara know if you see anything you’d like added or removed.

Food service: We need to create a “legal” kitchen in order to keep serving lunches upstairs next year – DEC will allow us to continue serving in the hall this year, but a proposal for corrections to the situation must be completed by 3/1/10.

Alicia got a basic drawing from Rich Conneen showing a way that the multi-purpose room could be modified to meet DEC requirements regarding health standards. She’ll take it to DEC to see if they are OK with it, and will then go to David Means. The work room is next door to a storage room, it may be possible to add/remove a wall to combine functions. A question was asked about whether parent volunteers could do some of the work? Probably not, due to liability issues. If DEC OK’s the proposal, Alicia will get a cost estimate before talking with David Means about having the work done.

Emergency lighting: There is no emergency lighting in the bathrooms and they are totally dark when the power goes out. The music room is the same. There is emergency lighting in the commons and hallways. Laury will email David Means about getting this corrected.

Specialist Allocation: Stephanie handed out a draft report that she could send to the budget committee regarding the “extra” .5 FTE that is split between Harborview and Montessori. The .25 we

get covers 8 sessions of music for the elementary kids, plus some reading intervention. The .25 that Harborview gets is an office person who deals with lunch accounting, recess duty, etc.

A question was raised at the budget committee regarding that position and whether it should be cut. Stephanie went to the Harborview site council to ask for their support in not getting that position cut. If it is, Harborview would need to provide music instruction for our kids, which will cause staffing and scheduling problems for Harborview. Harborview site council is supportive of keeping the position. After discussion, we decided that it might not be wise to bring it up to the budget committee at this point, but rather wait until the issue comes up – it's possible that it never will. Laury said that Dave Stoltenberg is very busy, so she would not support the cut. Stephanie will look into having a letter prepared from the Harborview Site Council that supporting retaining the 0.5 time position – she'll hold onto it, and bring it out at a budget committee meeting if needed.

A question was raised about whether it is acceptable for an outside source to pay teachers' salaries – SEAFOM has been paying ½ of Debbie's salary and benefits. The Superintendent has said that this is a historic practice that has been going on for a long time, but should not be expanded or reduced. Debbie's position funding is considered a grant.

Lottery issues: Laury said that she's considering pulling the Tlingit program out of the lottery – enrollment in that program would be handled more like it is done in regular classrooms. There are pros and cons to that issue, though it doesn't directly affect us.

Laury suggested that she form a sub-committee to re-write and clarify the language in the lottery rules. She offered to work with Barbara Thurston and Tony Newman (JCCS) to work on those changes. Barbara will run the draft rules and misc questions by the site council as needed.

We will work with Laury on making a number of non-substantive changes to the lottery process. Some of these are procedural items that relate to workflow. Others will be included in the clarification of the lottery rules.

Stephanie explained that a subcommittee of the site council will be formed to look into the question of whether or not the program should request more major lottery changes next year or farther in the future. The change that has been most requested by parents and other is to add a preference for "prior Montessori experience" to the lottery rules.

Future Events

Show-me night: The show-me night scheduled for February 23 has been cancelled due to lack of scheduling time for the teachers

Future meetings: March 15 and April 19 at 5:45 in the AMP classroom