



# JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Montessori Borealis Site Council



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**Date and Time of Meeting:** March 15, 2010, 5:45 pm

**Members Present:** Adriana Bothelo, Laury Scandling, Stephanie Allison, Mary Jane Tenney, Tori Talley, Barbara Thurston, Anastasia Tarmann, Kathy Brown

**Members Absent:** Darla Madden, Alicia Smith

**Guests Present:** Lupita Alvarez, Thea Howard, Robin MacDonald

### **Routine Business**

**Quorum and Minutes:** Quorum was met. We did not have an opportunity to vote on the February 8 minutes, and will do so at the April meeting.

### **Discussion Items**

**Food service:** Alicia delivered the kitchen plan document to David Means for kitchen plans. There are two possible locations – a closet and teacher workroom. The workroom is preferred because it would result in a bigger kitchen. The official “kitchen” can only be used for food during meal time, not as a teacher or student pull out room during the time that food is being served. It can be used for other purposes at other times.

Barbara and Laury gave a status report on the project to clarify the lottery rules and make a few non-substantive changes: Barbara and Tony Newman from JCCS met with Laury and Susan Arnold and are getting close to completion on the draft. There was a question about how to handle the issue of kids applying over the summer – can diversity students be placed immediately. Barbara said she’d check the school board minutes on the subject.

April 12 is the deadline for families to let Montessori know if they are coming back. We need to get info to Susan Arnold as soon as possible after that so she can begin compiling data.

Stephanie gave a brief summary of budget issues and Montessori specialists: Currently, we have an extra .25 FTE which is used to pay for Rick Trostel. There was a discussion about whether the allocation of specialist time is an appropriate topic for a site council to address – Laury said that site councils usually make decisions about allocation of specialists for time above the minimum.

The board will be looking at details of budget issues on a program by program basis – we don't know when Montessori will come up – probably fall. This isn't a Montessori specific project, but instead is taking a look at how the whole budget is allocated and spent.

SEAFOM's reserves are gone. They are currently paying ½ of Debbie's salary plus benefits and want to reduce the amount of Debbie's salary that they are paying. They are suggesting that we set a target class size of 40 or more. We are planning on doing that. There was a discussion of whether we can count some 6<sup>th</sup> graders as adolescent kids for budgeting purposes, and whether it would make sense to "over-fill" the E2 classes with that in mind.

Barbara gave a summary of the recruitment process and where we stand. Jennie Oxman designed the posters and brochures. Posters were printed and hung at all schools by conferences in order to help with exposure. More will be printed and hung as soon as we know the lottery application deadline. Laury set the application deadline has been set for 4/30.

Stephanie was asked by a board member to have Montessori present to the ANS 70 board giving information about the program. Laury said that ANS 70 has a strong academic focus, and it might make more sense to meet with their education subcommittee. Cathy Munoz is the chair of their education subcommittee. We may want to have a similar meeting with Camp 2.

Tori and Adrianna were asked to collect feedback from AMP students about what they do and don't like about the AMP program.

- The aspect they most dislike this year is recess, particularly since it is scheduled with the little kids who bug them for attention.
- They liked having morning meeting every day last year instead of once a week like this year – it was a good opportunity to catch up.
- Want a sink and kitchen to make group lunches easier.
- Having running water and bathrooms in the building this year is appreciated.
- They would like more gym time – have it twice a week but want more.
- They preferred last year's late afternoon hike with the teacher to this year's early morning one.
- Lockers that don't latch are a problem, since they fall open. (Laury suggested a process to get them fixed).
- The bus system to get here is pretty nice, but they don't like riding the bus in the morning with the elementary kids – always screaming.
- They don't like having to hang out with the younger kids on the turf field in the morning before school – they liked being able to go into the classrooms early last year.
- They don't want to have to stay with the younger kids while waiting for the bus – feel like they are treated like little kids.
- High school kids sometimes pick on AMP kids on afternoon bus – they liked it better last year when they had their own bus.
- They aren't clear what nurse they should go to.

School start time: Does it work? General impression that it's OK. After school bus waiting can be hard, Douglas bus doesn't leave until 4:15. Next year, childcare for early closure will be an issue for some families.

Bussing: Kids waiting around at elementary schools for the morning downtown shuttle bus can be a problem – this can be for up to a half hour in the morning, unsupervised. We've talked with JCCS and they have similar issues. We need to talk with Kevin Hansen at the bus company – are changes in the schedule possible?

Multiple administrators: Could we cut back on the number of administrators who are responsible for the program? Dave Stoltenberg has a huge group of kids he's reasonable for. Laury will talk with Sarah Marino about whether she could become our administrator. Could the part time classified staff person allocated to our kids move to Yaakoosge if the other administrative functions do? That would be ideal.

We would like to invite principals meet teachers and see classrooms. Laury suggested that they could come over as part of the administrative council meeting with her – they would already be at central office, and this would just be another agenda item. Potential dates are April 21 or 28.

### **Future Events**

AMP coffee house tomorrow night.

**Future meetings:** April 19 and May 17 at 5:45 in the AMP classroom