

Compass Montessori Board of Directors

Meeting Agenda

September 22nd 2015, Golden Campus Library



7:03pm: Call to Order

In Attendance: Rebecca Story, Mike Ambrosiak, Jeff Smith, Eileen Kratzer, Hannah Ewert-Krocker, Bill Kottenstedte, Dan Coerner, Seth Webb, Megan Witucki, Nikki Townsley

Joe Petit, President of the CMEF Board; Alex Ramsely, Vice President of the Board of Directors of Free Horizon Montessori

1) Consent Agenda Items - Mike moved to pass the consent agenda. Jeff seconded.

Approved unanimously

- a) Approve agenda
- b) ED Dashboard
- c) Approve August 2015 meeting minutes
- d) Treasurer's Report/Variance Reports

2) Community Sharing (10-15 mins)

- a) Celebrate Compass – a time for our community to identify and share positive feedback on our community

Megan - We had our annual peace celebration, which was wonderful.

Seth - The Pink Unicorns have had their second cross country meet. We had our first Ultimate Frisbee this week.

Rebecca - We finally got the school zone in front of Wheat Ridge. Celebrate Rachel Hultin for making it happen.

Alex Ramsely - Thank-you for hosting the JeffCo consortium meeting.

Bill - The current JeffCo School Board candidates stated at the panel that they do not disagree with the current funding of charter schools.

Nikki - One of the girls who won the mindbender on the radio was from Compass.

Rebecca - Cameron is having lunch with students and the students are enjoying it.

Bill - Tonight Cameron is entertaining Grace Lee who will be doing a workshop with Children's House this week.

Bill - Terri Wariner, Sammy Mead and Erika Deru are working really hard to put the library together at Wheat Ridge.

Eileen will contact people who have been celebrated at the meetings.

- b) Community Comment – No Community Comment

3) Updates and Reports

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- a) CMEF Annual Report – Joe Pettit The CMEF is providing grants to students and occupations for trips. One reason for this is that it is more interesting to donors than when they see monies that go to directly into the school fund.

See attached.

Bill made a conscious decision to not use all of the funds this year that CMEF typically gives to the school because there was not a clear need for the money and this year has been a better year in state and federal funding. Next year may be different. Also, with the possible refinancing of the bond, we do not want to run a negative balance. We want there to be money in the Foundation that we could borrow should that happen, Festa is March 12th, this year at Applewood Knolls. The theme is One Compass! We would like to work on creating a collaboration between our communication committee and CMEF.

Doug Michaels is looking at simplifying our books.

Website is 99% up to date. All but one board members' emails are on there.

- b) Financial Report – Dan Koerner and the Financial Oversight Committee (Jeff Smith)
Dan: Variance reports are on track. There are many changes that have created a need to present the budget for next month. The changes are for the positive. The audits have occurred. Everything looks good at this point. Once we get the audit report we can look at the bond rating for the refinance. We should have them by November. GASB 68 rule will put some of the liability of PERA on charter schools. This impacts all businesses that have PERA but it is not as impactful to the large districts. It is a problem for charters because we have separate and small accounting systems that will have a large liability on them because of this rule. This could only impact us for the refinance.
Bill: Last night at the school board debate one questions was: Would you give charters the freedom to break from the district accounting system? Bill believes that this is immaterial and would create more work / costs than we have now.
- c) Teacher and/or Principal updates
Seth - See ED Dashboard. MAP is informing instruction but not driving instruction. First Penny Theater shows are starting this Thursday. We are looking for common sense security that honors the pedagogy.

Megan - PE is up and running. Linda, our new PE and recess coordinator is doing well. Michelle, Jacob and Brianna are doing a great job with the lunch program. It is really welcoming. Cameron is doing a great job helping staff to understand MAP data and determine root cause. First, you look at data and then determine the root cause of why the data is not where we want it to be. (Root cause is wording from the UIP). Cameron has taken these discussion to the staff. Some of the students did bring their Montessori

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materials into the test taking environment. Celebration of Charlie and Cameron: MRX is being streamlined. The report cards will be much more authentic. This is a learning curve for teachers and parents.

- d) ED update Bill - we put the hold on outsourcing the lunch program because of the change in leadership so there is not a gardening position at this time but students are helping with the program as well.

Ekaterina is on class trip.

Class trips have gone well.

On November 13th, there is the possibility of changing the calendar and canceling school to allow training for a workshop called Montessori Education Applied to Children at Risk by the Shelton School from Dallas, Texas. This will be Friday, Saturday, and half day Sunday. All staff can attend on Friday. Saturday and Sunday will be optional. The instructional day would not be made up. The board will need to approve the change in calendar next month. Board members seem to be in favor at this time.

Speech and debate may become a formal program here along with cross country and Ultimate Frisbee.

Attrition data has been analyzed from the beginning of the school to today. This will help guide our decisions around expansion.

4) Education Segment – Strategic Plan (40 mins)

Overview of the school's Strategic Plan. (Academic and National Model goals) Mike (Financial and Facilities goal), Rebecca (Leadership and National Model goals), and Nikki (Communications goal).

Nikki and the communication committee will write a spot in the newsletter about the strategic plan.

A SWOT analysis was done with many different stakeholders. That information was used to create the Strategic Plan. Five goals were created. The Dashboard reports on each of these goals.

5) New Business (60 mins)

- a) Nomination and vote to fill vacant parent rep Board position (term to expire June 2016).

Nikki is a former CU professor in communication as well as an entrepreneur. She has already served as a board member for two years. Mike moved to have Nikki Townsley fill the vacant parent rep on the board for the term which will expire in June 2016. Jeff seconded. Approved unanimously.

What is Nikki's perspective having worked on the board, left, and is back: The work that has been done in the past two years has created stability. She worked for two years and felt

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her work was not done so she came back. Then she chose to come back because there is no conflict or feeling of being overwhelmed.

- b) Dropbox – Proposal to obtain a subscription to obtain the ability to set permissions for read only, etc. Eileen moved that we approve \$9.99 + tax per month to upgrade our Dropbox account to provide more security. Hannah seconded. Approved unanimously.
- c) Strategic Plan – Develop a plan for progress monitoring; designate committees to shepherd the work for each goal.

The strategic plan will be presented to the SAC. One board member responsible for a goal from the plan. We will cover one a month in four month cycles. We will start with academics and communication. Nikki will report on the communication goals. Mike and Hannah will report on the academic goals. Eileen will report on National Model, Jeff will report on financial. Rebecca will report on leadership. Mike will call Nora Flood to see if she has any recommendations on how to handle this work.

- d) Proposal to develop an ED evaluation tool. - Mike moved to table this agenda item until next month.

- 6) Adjourn Mike moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:56. Hannah seconded. Approved unanimously.**

Next meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 7pm, Golden Campus

PARKING LOT: (1) Updated board officer and job positions; amended Board Policy Handbook; by laws update ; (2) Access issues; (3) Updates on strategic plan execution; (4) Tight/loose on school culture; (5) Enrollment Policy; (6) Grievance Policy

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