

Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School

Governance Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 5:30 p.m. (Online)

Members: Chris Bewell, Jean Melancon, Maisah Outlaw, Julaine Roffers-Agarwal (Chair)

AGENDA

- 1) Call Meeting to Order 5:40 pm
- 2) Public Comment Period – Comments limited to 3 minutes per person
- 3) Goals for today's meeting:
 - a) Review policy progress
 - i) Policies to review:
 - (1) Need to review 524 annually (last reviewed 3/17/2020, aiming for review at May meeting to send to Board in June)
 - (2) Scholarship policy/procedure(s)- continue discussion, see information from Jean, Julaine, and Alyssa Conclusion of discussion was that we have three different issues:
 - (a) 1. Funding of a staff member's Montessori/state certification training- the committee concluded that this situation would be appropriate if assisting the staff member in gaining certification filled a need that the school had (an upcoming retirement to replace a licensed teacher, addition of another classroom, expansion of the program, etc) and would require a contract between CMES and the staff member covering obligations for successful completion of the program and term of service following completion but we do not feel that we are prepared to move forward with policy creation at this time.
 - (b) 2. Funding for a non-certified staff member's professional development- we concluded that CMES would be able to fund professional development/training costs that would contribute to the program the staff member supports, for instance, if the Head of School or Director of Elementary Pedagogy determined that a staff member or group of staff members would benefit from training on restorative justice, a Montessori seminar, etc. The committee has asked the Finance Committee to explore adding funds to the budget for the upcoming year to support these sorts of opportunities.
 - (c) 3. Funding for parents/family members to undergo training. The committee concluded that this becomes difficult for CMES to justify using public funding. Information from Joe at Dieci and MACS indicates that any parent taking funded training would need to bring back information and disseminate it to the entire community. We discussed continuing to bring in resources for parents on site/through Zoom to fulfill this goal instead.
 - (3) For future planning: What policies would need to be put in place for Jr High?
 - ii) Will review Bylaws this school year as well- redlined version from Maisah, review today and send to Board for approval Will send with updated statutes to board for approval
 - b) Candidates for opening board seats (Julaine and Maisah's terms end this year), candidate information due to Chris by March 26 (this Friday)
- 4) Education (orientation, ongoing education, etc.)
 - a) Education for next board meeting- Financial questions answered by Joe, Julaine will send reminder to board members a week before the meeting, ABC overview
 - b) Any additions to list of future board level education topics
 - i) Nancy Dana- governance training
 - ii) Understanding the budget April
 - iii) Understand the academic goals and how to support them
 - iv) Paris Dunning (ESABA Executive Director)

- v) ~~Sarah Plumb (Jr High teacher from Oak Hill)~~ Sunny Hollow Jr High teacher, potentially for June meeting (new program, may have more insight into starting up a program), Maisah will contact
 - vi) Visit to St Croix Montessori to visit Jr High site or operating Jr High site (Oak Hill, Lake Country, Sunny Hollow, maybe Parkway)
 - vii) Presentation by Joe auditor with financial topics April
 - viii) Presentation about elected officials for the area- who represents us in the area at different levels, who we contact for what
- 5) Next Meeting
 - a) Tuesday April 27, 2021 at 5:30 pm, online?
 - 6) Any other business
 - 7) Adjourn 7:00 pm