

NEIM Annual Meeting - July, 12, 2016

Meeting called to order @ 6:33 pm

Attending - Jane Busch, Rachel Brummel, Jay Raabe, Robin Sailor

Not a full quorum, but we'll be voting in Jay Raabe and Ryan Torkelson during the August Meeting

Agenda:

Approval of the Minutes

Reports:

HOS - Erika has stepped down, so Jane will be reporting. We have 9 applicants that have applied for the position. DHS worksheets, need to get 100 pts.

- 75 pts automatically comes from a BA in Education, level doesn't matter - high school, middle school, etc. If they don't have a Ed BA, they can take Keystone classes to get up to that - then 20 pts comes through job experience, and the other 5 points from other experience (not job experience).
- Interview process, we'll go through the worksheet and see where people set with the process. We'll sit down and hopefully start interviewing next week, hopefully. Final votes will come through the board, and we'll have lots of input through the community.
- If we were to get the interviews done the week of the 18th, and then we could start a contract date August 1st. One reason to push it is because NAC training in Manchester the 25th-29th of July. We need to let them know by the 20th if there will be someone from NEIM attending.
- In the interim, Jane is sitting as HOS and president, to answer phone if need be.

Is Claire paid during the interviewing process? Thoughts that it might be nice to offer her a little bit.

Summer Camp - has been a financial driver and important in the summer, they've been drawing on line of credit. Anywhere from 10-26 kids coming through. Has been good and when it was all said and done will net \$5000.

Nordic Fest - giving back to the community, place to sit, nursing moms, had some people come through and enroll, we gave some mini-tours, a good PR move. This year, the Chamber of Commerce, they promised they'd pay us this summer (like \$200). This year we can also sell things (need to follow up what that is).

President's Report:

See the back of the handout - the strategic plan. Priorities are listed, we perhaps didn't follow it as much as we wanted, but it is a goal to be better about paying attention to it. E1 as an example, there was a lot of stuff in the basement, not properly cleaned, but Jane has worked hard on it - some of it was stained with the chemicals from the photography. Jane has filled the hole in the basement with chunks of limestone and 850 lbs of rock. A frustration with the way the building sale ended, but it is moving forward. We're a full year behind → Jane wants to be the teacher and we are discussing models for paying her, such as % of tuitions.

The Montessori Experience - trying to improve the experience and education with the public and families. "The Silent Journey" as an example of the way to educate parents, getting people familiar with the language of Montessori ("Work", "Guides", "Head of School", etc). Goal is to get the families educated. We did a survey about what families would be willing to do → the two day model might be too much of an ask, so we're still exploring.

Board Strengthening - want to be efficient, board meetings become committee meetings, and are trying to make it more efficient. Keeping boundaries clear between board and HOS, especially with the new HOS coming in.

Environmental Stewardship - outside playspace was part of that.

Financial stability → Do we interface with other Montessori schools on funding and grants? (Robyn asked). Jennifer Jones went through the foundations training and created relationships with other HOSs, MTCM, etc. The new person coming in, we will need to be purposeful.

Scholarship Program - Erika has been in touch with two potential donors for scholarships. Question from Robyn: Criteria for this? Not well defined. 3 year olds can get funding through HAWC, funding from 4 yo grant, and 5 year olds would be the target, but we might also get.

Possible other arrangements - getting targets in the community that might be willing to do things like "we'll patronize your store if you donate to the scholarship".

Federal program that sets income criteria based upon income and number of dependents in the house that might be a good guideline.

Budget is based on 22 and 18 are enrolled, the E1 enrollment is not currently counted in that number, so building that program is a strong financial model. In the fall, we had several 2 yo kids and that changed the ratios.

After care program - rename, we have several kids from John Cline, Luther students have helped out with that.

Any questions? Nope!

## Treasurer's Report:

We modeled this off of the MTC → see report posted for details. 4 year old grant is based upon 4 year old enrollment for the previous year, this year we had 94 yo

Mortgage is a good investment and has cut down on costs considerably.

## Old Business:

- Play space - Robin is back with estimates on some of the work.
- Robin phased it out - estimates for deck to make it more accessible, we can't be ADA compliant because the ramp would be way too long.
- 3 ft x 10 ft deck at the back entry that would cover the preschool entry, its goal is to reduce the step height. It may not happen right away with the budget. Phase 1: Deck change, dig a dry well to capture some of the water that comes off the roof, it would help with the water coming off and out of the e1 entry. What would it cost to dig dry well, get the lime pathway all the way out the gate.
- Deck
- Grading, lime, and sod and digging dry well (\$3000 from Ladybug Landscaping). How much time would it take, if we had it all cleared out - they thought they could do it with 2-3 days. They are more than happy to have help.
- Alternatives for play are if we choose to seed instead of sod (2 weeks would be okay with sod, we'd need more with seed). They would rake off anything that's loose, then they'd take a tiller in, it wouldn't mean moving the little lump, etc. Cut in pathway, etc. Realistically, we could do something with volunteer 4 hour stints. With 2 four hour weekends. Seeding would take \$75, but it should have 1-2 mowings before kids getting on it. And the sod would be \$945.
- Overall approach - we could be incremental, keep going as we go.
- Cherry tree - not a great location, but the rootball might be young enough to move it. Robin would think hard about moving - it is not in an ideal location. It would be nice to get trees in that would shade it. Cherry might be better over the fence - the property is ours, but dealing with that would be a sticky issue, that might need to be handled legally. Arbitration as a model if possible. We have at least 3 ft more space along the whole length of the fence. It ends up to be 300 square feet.
- Permits - we do not need any permits for the landscaping, but we would for the deck (\$25). If you are remodeling, you don't need a permit, but if you need something new, you do.
- What Robin needs to know - do we start planning for parents to come and do a couple weekends (we could set things aside with camp and then put it down again)? Volunteer labor vs. Ladybug coming - if so we need to let Ladybug know so we can get a weekend down.
- Seed with volunteer labor would be \$500-700, if we were doing sod (\$1500-\$1700).

- We could get a tiller from Decorah Rental (\$35), but then buy sod, mulch, soil, etc. from Lady
- Weekend work weeks 13-14st, August 20-21st - the sod might be the best choice.
- Financial arrangement - we use line of credit, if we get the Depot grant, we repay it, if not, we plan to do seeds or do something else creative instead.
- Action Item: Rachel will send out Doodle Poll, and I'll make a call to Depot on grants- 8 noon on Saturday, 10-2 Sunday.
- Cherry tree - NE corner, log corner or beyond the fence. Jane - has to be beyond the fence right now.

E1 - pretty sure Rolf Peterson is available the 18-22nd, get some materials here. Jane is going to be scavenging 2x4s for building. She is going to send out an email for people that want to help out. The electrician has to be certified and room around the furnace.

Anything else for the good of the school of Montessori - Jay is leaving next week.

Always wanting more people - can we bring in more people in for time rather than \$.

Adjourn meeting at 8:06.

Next Meeting is August 9th at 6:30