

Community Meeting Minutes January 8, 2008

Scribe: MaryLou Kane Timekeeper: Kay Smitherman

Items on Agenda: Lunch Bunch
 Middle School Update
 Acoustics in School building

- I. Middle School Exploration Committee – Margaret Norris
 - a. Have made contact with schools in Cincinnati and Cleveland, OH; Raleigh and Charlotte, NC; Athens, GA.
 - b. Next meeting to be held 1/14 3:15pm @ school conference room. Plan to meet 1st Monday of the month for putting information gathered together.
 - c. Plan to “map” a Middle School creation journey, using other schools vision statements and our blueprint.
 - d. It looks to investigators that a middle school program for 7-9th grades will require a separate building.

- II. Acoustics
 - a. A current parent is a sound engineer
 - b. Kay S. has spoken with a relative about situation – different ceiling tiles cost about \$1.50/sq.ft. He recommended looking at original tiles specified by architect.
 - c. Angela plans to schedule an engineer from local architecture firm to walk through building for their assessment.
 - d. There was an offer made by Mary Beth Oas to donate area rugs if that would help some classrooms.

- III. Birthdays
 - a. Valerie Brockenbrough asked about requirement to invite entire class to a birthday party – no such rule exists.
 - b. Clarification made: The school does not allow invitations to be distributed in cubbies or totes at school.

- IV. Greening the School
 - a. Valerie B inquired as to who is in charge of the greening of the school; she would like to be involved and help as she is able.
 - b. Angela said that the greening is happening on many levels, one example being the cleaning crew and their cleaning solutions are so much better – especially upon return from break after the floors were cleaned, waxed, etc. They use naturally derived cleaning solutions and microfiber cloths that are cleaned after each use. The school is purchasing recycled paper products and “pure and natural” brand hand soap by dial. Parents are much better about turning off engines while waiting in pick up line.
 - c. Parents are encouraged to share information regarding green ideas. Valerie B. will start parent committee to collect information and ideas for school to get greener. Contact her at next community meeting.

- V. Auction APRIL 12th
 - a. Proceeds will go towards greening of the school, both grounds and inside the building.

- VI. “Lunch Bunch”
 - a. Mary Beth Oas continued discussion of a lunch bunch option for CH children to stay until 1:00 on a drop in basis. She would like to have that option for her child, to have the social interaction

of lunchtime. She suggested the library space could be used for the children who stayed to have a quiet space to be together and read. Annamarie Edwards spoke to the school's position, being that a consistent schedule is best for the children. A lunch bunch option would entail a third transition for a classroom, and that would be too much for the children, and for the teachers/staff to administrate. The school has tried many different options through the years; the closer we stay to an authentic Montessori model the happier the children are.

- VII. Question rose out of above topic: Is Lunch a part of one of the 3 hour cycles of a Montessori classroom? Annamarie asked for time to reflect on that question and answer at the next Community Meeting.
- VIII. Request was made to email a reminder about upcoming community meetings.
- IX. ANNUAL FUND
 - a. Has been three weeks since initial mailing and brochures were mailed. To date over \$12,000 has been pledged/contributed.