

# The Montessori School of Winston Salem Community Meeting

MINUTES

JAN 9 2007

6.00PM – 8.00PM

THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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| FACILITATOR | Shona Simpson   |
| NOTE TAKER  | Anu Williams    |
| TIMEKEEPER  | Deborah Halpern |

The meeting was called to order by Angela Manning, the Interim Head of School. The following announcements were made:

- The Centennial Open House will be held on Jan 21 from 3pm-5pm. This Open House is open to all families, friends in the community. More details will be sent out by individual classroom teachers.
- Annual Fund has been launched .The children will be painting the pink tower cubes that will represent the amount collected. Our goal is \$50,000 and to date we have collected \$ 4015. Each cube will represent \$5,000.The children will be painting the cubes as we reach our target. Afternote: By the end of the night Hanya Chrispeels contributed \$85 to round off the first \$5,000.

Agenda topics:

10 mins

GARDEN COMMITTEE UPDATE

HANYA CHRISPEELS

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| DISCUSSION  | Hanya said that Angela Browning a landscape planner has agreed to donate her services to the school and she will be helping the committee in the planning and setting up of the two gardens for the school- one for the oval and the other at the back of the school. As the next step would be to acquire materials, the committee was asked to provide a list so that parents can help out in the acquisition where possible.<br>There was also a request for shade trees in the playground. |
| CONCLUSIONS | It was agreed that as a rule the Gardening Committee will process all such requests to ensure that the proposed planting of any bush and trees are appropriate and complement the landscape of the school.   |

5mins

IDLING OF CARS DURING PICKUP

HANYA CHRISPEELS

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| DISCUSSION | Hanya wanted to know if the school can have no idling policy during pickup. She stressed that this is detrimental to the environment and she feels very strongly about it. She proposed that if someone is going to wait for more than a minute or two it is best that the engine be turned off. It was suggested that the drop off and pick up system also be looked into at some point in time. This will go into the parking lot as well. |
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| Conclusion | A five finger vote was given for the Elementary children will do research on this issue and their findings can then be presented in the school's newsletter to encourage parents to turn off their engines. |
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10 MINS NEW NAME FOR SCHOOL

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| DISCUSSION  | Marsha told the meeting that the Board had given approval for the current name for the school to be changed. It was proposed that the children be involved in the name selection. This would be good time to introduce them to the five finger vote process as well. |
| CONCLUSIONS | Brittney Teggart agreed to facilitate the search for a new name.   |

10MINS SCHOOL T-SHIRTS VALERIE BROCKENBROUGH

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| DISCUSSION  | <p>Valerie presented T-shirt design. She explained that the T-shirts are made of organic material and has different feel to it that the regular T-shirts. Also the manufactures are a North Carolina based and it will be a good thing as well to support a homegrown company. She sought approval for the pricing of the T-shirts.</p> <p>The cost prices for T shirts are as follows<br/>         Adult T shirts- \$12<br/>         Youth sizes -\$11<br/>         Toddler sizes-\$8.</p> <p>It was proposed that the T shirts be sold for \$20, \$16 and \$12 respectively. All profits made will go to the school. .</p> <p>She also presented two colors to be voted on- an earthy brown and a shade of pastel blue.</p> <p>She requested that a table be set up at the Open House on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> to promote the T-shirt and orders can be placed on the same day as well.</p> |
| CONCLUSIONS | The Community voted and a five finger approval was given for the pricing of the T-shirts and the earthy brown color.  |

5MINS NETWORKING VALERIE BROCKENBROUGH

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| DISCUSSION | Valerie wanted to know if there is anyway parents with businesses can created a networking system within the school. One suggestions was to leave a folder with business cards and parents in the school can use it as a source to find a particular service they so need it. This is a good idea but it has to be discussed more. It was suggested that this be placed in the parking lot to be looked at a later date. |
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10 MINS INTRODUCING OF MARTIAL ARTS ARVIND KOHLI

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| DISCUSSION | Arvind proposed that the school look into the possibility of introducing martial arts as an extra curricular program. He said the martial arts has many benefits and it is good for the mental and physical well being of an individual |
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|             | <p>Such a service if available at school will minimize the running around that parents do after school to get their children to these classes. He also suggested that the trainer can assume the administrative duties of managing the program as well.</p> <p>While the benefits of martial arts were acknowledged, introduction of such a program cannot be done in isolation. It was proposed that it should be part of the Master Plan for the Aftercare Activities which will be addressed in the next Blue Printing meeting.</p> |
| CONCLUSIONS | The Community agreed to put this item in the parking lot to be discussed after the blueprinting process.   |
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| 5MINS       | MILK PROGRAM  | WENDY BARTLETT |
| DISCUSSION  | <p>Wendy had found out that the cost of one carton of milk is 25cts; The school will have to absorb overages. Ms Kay informed the meeting that based on what she tried for a day with the in the toddler class, she felt a gallon of milk will be sufficient for a week. It was proposed that parents can perhaps take turns to provide the milk for work share hours. However the question of refrigerator space, washing of the glasses and any other practical problems will have to work out with the teachers and the school's administration.</p> |                |
| CONCLUSIONS | It was agreed that the teachers give this some thought and discuss through staff channels.  |                |
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| 15MINS     | UPDATE ON BLUE PRINTING MEETING   | ANGELA MANNING |
| DISCUSSION | <p>Angela announced that the next Blue Printing Meeting will be held sometime in Jan to discuss the last section of the document-the curriculum. This will be done with the teachers' involvement and to watch for the dates.</p> |                |
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| 30 MINS    | FRENCH PROGRAM  | CAROL VARNADO |
| DISCUSSION | <p>Ms Varnado the French language teacher at the school gave a brief introduction on how French is taught at school. While she wished that she had more time to work with the younger children she felt that by introducing a second language to the younger children even for once a week had its benefits and it is proven it is that much easier for the same children to learn another language because of early exposure to languages. It was questioned as to why French was taught instead of Spanish. It was felt that Spanish can easily be learned because more people speak Spanish and Spanish is becoming a working language in our society. It was agreed that there are two significant issues at stake: one is how we teach a foreign language in a Montessori environment and the other is what foreign language or languages we teach. Both will be discussed in the Blueprinting and in our next</p> |               |

community meeting.