

**The Montessori School  
Community Meeting  
8-15-07**

Convened 6pm 8 in attendance

Leader: Asteir

Timer: Karen

Scribe: Kay

Topics: Cleaning Products – Valerie

Language – Spanish or French – Annamarie

Nut Free School – Karen

More people at Community Mtgs. – Asteir

New Name for School - Karen

Art in the Hallways - Holly

**6:15 Cleaning Products**

Asteir presented for Valerie the concern of parents for chemicals used inside and outside the school. Valerie was volunteering to do comparative pricing of green products. AME offered that she has a contact with knowledge of green products and took Valerie's phone #. Angela reminded that our blueprint calls for green when possible.

VOTED: to pursue possibilities, with Valerie leading – five finger vote passed.

**6:20 Language**

AME – studies done that show today's American children will need knowledge of Spanish. Mandarin would be another possibility, with the goal of native speakers being in the classroom. Discussion followed. Not feasible for this year, but use time to plan model to incorporate into Montessori program. Model could be presented for next Community Meeting.

Darryl Ince suggested that it is better for the administration to make a curriculum change without presenting at a meeting for vote. Felt "frivolous conversations" a waste of time; the experience of the staff would make better decisions that group think.

Several offered feelings that community input is what is special about our school. Asteir especially verbalized the positive aspects of changes ongoing. Angela presented examples – music program changing from circle time to Montessori bells and progression into elementary w/\$6K from Annual Fund.

It was suggested to announce/publicize curriculum changes/advances through newsletter and community meetings – not to separate language, but to review curriculum as a whole. AME asked – Spanish or French – can we choose? Discussed past discussions and decided that those present could choose.

VOTED: Switch to Spanish curriculum in 2008-09. AME will present curriculum changes at the next CM. (Community Meeting on 9.11.07 discussion evolved to explore this change more slowly and not to make this sudden curriculum change just in the language. Language in the classroom should be reviewed entirely, not just which language.)

6:30 – 11 in attendance

6:40-7pm **CM attendance improvement**

We now alternate nights and have published the calendar in advance. Teachers should remind in newsletters to let parents know to bring issues to community mtgs.

7pm - 12 in attendance

7pm **Nut Free School**

Karen Doty has a student with life threatening allergies to peanuts (will check if just peanuts or all nuts). Discussion of dangers and liabilities ensued. Darryl Ince suggested the school provide snacks. Someone related how summer snack was provided, but allergic children still brought own snack.

It was agreed that staff and parents can't check for items produced at a plant that processes nuts. Ilse spoke of alternative options for nut allergies. AME related GSO Montessori experience – tried to offer nut free environment, but liability too great if peanut wandered into “nut free” area. They discontinued and worked with individual room allergies, but not school wide.

Kay hopes to continue scooping walnuts and stirring almonds.

We checked handbook and it asks parents to follow individual room requests about allergies. Increased efforts to make parents aware of room allergies were suggested. Teachers need to be specific.

VOTED: School will continue with policy in handbook; using greater vigilance and better communication.

13 in attendance

**Name Change**

Legally – Montessori Children's Center/TMS of Winston-Salem. Name will remain as such for this year. Need a deadline for “name committee” to report.

VOTED: To have a presentation by Name Committee at December meeting – when vote will be taken by those present. Passed w/FFV.

**Art in the Hallway**

Holly related prospective parent questions about stark walls. Angela – desire for organic art, not just throwing up what's available. AME talked about process not product.

Children's work on walls has huge ramifications. Neutral wall colors to warm up? Different colors on different walls? Asteir proposed a vote on committee to develop art options for walls and auctions. Advertise in newsletter to volunteer at next meeting.

VOTED: above passed FFV

**PARKING LOT**

School providing snacks – Darryl

Paper towel dispensers that work – Administration to pursue.