

ICP Board Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

In Attendance: Dave Buchanan, Daniel Cunningham (stayed for kitchen report & meal proposal only), Elisa Fairbanks, Melissa Harris, Dan Hays, Melanie Kelly, Jennine Livengood, Rebecca Hirte, Josh Phillips, Kim Phillips, Kristina Rosenbaum (stayed for kitchen report & meal proposal only), and Erik Swartzendruber.

Summary of Votes: None.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes: No minutes to approve.

Reports:

PTO Report: Elisa says there's a display up at Footwise, similar to in years past. It will need to be taken down in approximately 1 week. M CCS didn't have a presence at Da Vinci Days this year.

School Lunch/Kitchen: Partnership proposal from Daniel Cunningham of Chintimini Farms: Chintimini Farms raises chickens for eggs and meat, and produces convenience foods from their farm products. They have partnered successfully with Ashbrook Independent School in the past for school lunch services. They would like to partner with M CCS for the upcoming school year. They can offer some school lunch services (~1 day/week) at a discounted rate in exchange for commercial kitchen space where they can develop their products. They'd need to meet with M CCS representative to figure out the details, especially what budget constraints the school would need to work within.

Questions from the group:

- Melanie asked how vegetarians would be addressed. Kristina has a plan for vegetarian meal offerings: veggie bowls without chicken, bagels with sunflower butter, etc.
- Erik asked what level of volunteer support they'd need in the kitchen. Daniel answered; 1-2 volunteers from the M CCS community. Kristina added that there are a few regular parent volunteers in the kitchen that could probably cover this need. There's also a pool of volunteers from the OSU Dietetics Club.
- Erik asked if they have an approximate cost per meal. Daniel wasn't sure yet, and would need to know what price point M CCS needs to work within, and Chintimini Farms will design around that constraint.
- What time frame would Chintimini commit to? At least one year.

509J Report: Nothing to report.

ICP Treasurer's Report: No change.

Budget Report: Elisa--PERS contribution rates have been finalized at the state level at 22.29% and 20.29%. This is a smaller increase than was originally projected, but it is still a major increase for MCCS. We have \$11K in income this year. The budget is being revised as needed. There will be an on-site audit July 30th. The benefit packages are being finished up for next year's employees.

Board Report:

Enrollment continues to fluctuate a small amount.

Math: Melissa is leaning towards Everyday Math. Previously she wanted to stay with Bridges. She will make up her mind before the next board meeting and Dan will report back on a math curriculum decision. Leah would like to go with Everyday Math for her 4th graders to align with Tom's 4th graders. However, she'd prefer to stay with Bridges (the older version) for her 3rd graders because she feels like this has been very successful, as evidenced by the 3rd grade test scores. Dan acknowledges that the board would like the whole school using one curriculum, and that whatever it is must be common core aligned. At the next ICP meeting, Dan will share the teacher's final math curriculum decision/desires. Melissa Harris asked about training for the new math curriculum. Dan answered that there would likely be one training in August and a few more times during the year. Next year, Dan will have to start evaluating teachers based on student learning. With this in mind, he stressed the importance of having teacher buy-in to the materials they're using.

Reading: The school will work on aligning the reading curriculum to the common core after the teachers are trained and comfortable using the new math curriculum.

Testing: (Melanie's comments) Testing will be for 1st-5th graders three times per year next year. In the past only 3rd-5th graders were tested.

P.E.: Last year we had Morgan as our P.E. teacher, but he was a contracted service, not an internal employee. This year, we need to have an internally hired person teach P.E. The position has been advertised, and Morgan is in the pool of candidates.

Artist in residence: We will have a music focus next year. We may also have an artist/builder do a residency as well.

Dan continues to maintain a relationship with the district, including about personnel issues (a continuing challenge, especially regarding retention).

MCCS School Building site: Dan is working on a decision about the land that MCCS sits on, which belongs to the Thompsons (Contact person: Janice). The district wants to wash their hands of the building. The Thompsons need to agree, since they own the land. It would be good for us to detach from district control in terms of the building. The agreement with the Thompsons, as it stands now, is that if the school ever shuts down, the land must be returned to farm land. This is a significant financial risk for ICP/MCCS, which there isn't enough funding for. However, this contract could potentially be negotiated.

Physical plant: A new fresh air system, and a heat pump for the office has been installed. Cleaning services for next year will likely change for next year, to a new company offering more services. This has already been accounted for in the budget.

Discussion and Decision:

Part-time math teacher: it is possible that Morgan or Leonne Banister could fill this role, though it would still need to be a separately advertised position. With Morgan possibly filling the role as P.E. teacher, and Leonne possibly filling the role as school counselor, adding math duties to one of these roles could work well. Leonne is currently working on a proposal for counseling services.

Behavioral issues: there is a new student coming to MCCS with significant behavioral issues. As our student population increases, we will likely be seeing more and more students with these sorts of struggles. It would behoove MCCS to regular counseling services to strengthen behavior management. Erik notes that a counselor position would need to be advertised. Elisa would like to get the district's feedback on this because it is possible that they may be responsible for some of this financial burden.

School Counselor: At the August meeting, Dan will provide an update about the possibility of a counselor position.

Hiring the 1-2 teacher: Shannon ended up turning down the job. There are options for how we'll move forward with this. One option is hiring a long-term substitute, and Dan has a few people in mind as possibilities—Elise Bradley or Barb Holt. Both are retired educators who have mentored student teachers before. This option would allow Kim to student teach under the long-term substitute, then open the position up for interviews in January. Dan suggested that Kim could be hired after completing her practicum and be the “common thread” for students throughout the school year. This is one option for how to deal with this problem, and things we need to consider are 1) the legality, and 2) making sure it serves MCCS's needs.

Long-term subs don't need to interview. They cannot legally serve for an entire year. Jennifer Duval, head of HR at the district endorsed this idea. Another option is opening up the hiring process ASAP. Problems with this are: a tight schedule for members of the hiring committee, and it is very difficult to get students back together for a sample teaching lesson.

This is a recurring problem at MCCS, and it has happened about three times before. Retention is a complex problem for this school! Dan is looking for ideas for how to deal with it.

Dan will report back to the board (likely by emailing Erik) about how the hiring committee would like to deal with filling the 1-2 teacher opening.

Discipline policy: The student population growth of our school has spurred a need for polices to be spelled out. Jennine has been examining our current discipline policies from the employee handbook and from the ICP board policies, and previewing some discipline curriculum materials (Leonne has some too). She's looking at methods for documenting behaviors and collecting and examining this data to look for patterns. Also, streamlining communication among teachers, classroom assistants and parents is a goal.

Melissa Harris stressed the importance of objectivity in whatever system we choose to go with. She has looked at Kings Valley's system. Melanie added that having a counselor on staff would really strengthen MCCS's behavior management system. She also wants MCCS's discipline policy to really fit the unique needs of our school.

Erik summarized, we do have a policy now, but what is needed is adding more details. Melissa recommended a committee of people with diverse interests (parents, staff, board members) to work on this. Looking at examples from other schools is a good starting point, then changing things to fit MCCS. Jennine offered to start the committee. Melanie asked to join it. Erik-the committee needs to create a list of recommendations for changes or additions to the discipline policy. Dan Hays stated that he'd also be working with this committee.

New board member, Dave Buchanan: Dave provided an introduction about himself and opened things up for questions about himself. He's a fourth generation farmer, on the same piece of land. His granddaughter was a kindergartener at MCCS last year. He wants to be involved on the board because he doesn't like seeing small community schools being shut down, like what happened to Inavale. He doesn't particularly like the idea of adding a sixth grade here because he believes it will be harder for the MCCS students to integrate into middle school. He was a fishery biologist for 30 years in Alaska and in Oregon, and has worked in both marine and freshwater systems. His dad was a dairy farmer, but he changed the farm over to hazelnuts and grapes when he took over. He has also raised sheep in the past. His

daughter is the vineyard and winery manager, he manages the hazels. He's interested in working on the funding for MCCS, and his ideas for this include; getting grandparents involved, and reaching out to the wider community. He has been a trustee for the Nature Conservancy, and would like to use what he learned about fund raising from them, and apply it to MCCS. At the next board meeting, ICP will vote on Dave joining the board.

Additional potential new board member: Rebecca Hirte would like to join the board. Her husband is interested too, but travels frequently so would likely miss several board meetings.

Board position openings: The board doesn't have a secretary any longer. There are usually 4-5 board members, but that usually doesn't spread the workload enough. The board needs more people.

Melissa suggested advertising in the MCCS newsletter to get more parents aware of what the board does, and may generate some interest. Jennine remembers that the grange was involved in the past. We need to be more vocal to the wider community about our need for board members. Erik would like to step down from the ICP presidency when his term is up in about one year.

Annual affirmation of conflict of interest: Board members need to sign or re-sign this form about conflict of interest.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm

Minutes taken by Kim Phillips, formatted and edited by Melissa Harris

ACTION ITEMS: None.