

ICP Board Meeting March 10th, 2022

Attendance: Lester Oehler (notetaker), Josh Stauber, James Anderson, Karen Steele, Jamie Hahn, Robbin Stevenson, Megan Irwin, Tom Day, Blake Mckinley, Erin McMullen (arrived late).\

James moves to approve the February 10th and Special Session minutes. Karen seconds (5,5,5,5,5,5,)

7:05 Welcome:

Public Comment:

James: Hoping for an in person April meeting with streaming available.

Robbin asked James to read an email she wrote regarding the benefits of “risky play” and wanted to look at our current playground rules. Robbin suggested a townhall to discuss the rules, and align with our Charter Mission and Vision, and our available resources.

Eric Anderson, a former student said that the recesses used to have “shops” set up around a river. Kids would manage the shops, build dams, funnel the water into the river, make clay walls, and generally have a great time with this. Then a concept called “fairshare” changed to four square, and rules and structure changed the natural way play happened. A large piece of charcoal was found, and became a source of commerce in the “shops”, but was taken away because it didn’t wash off and people were facepainting with it. Stick fighting games were fun, but they disappeared, likely a rule canceled this. Soccer was replaced by kickball, 500 etc. Soccer was canceled because of the gopher holes. Derrick said that the playground should be legalized, laissez faire and let fun things flow.

Megan said that that her kids have similar comments, and were sad when rules like no running/tag etc popped up. Megan felt the playground play has suffered.

Tom said that if there is a “complaint” it first goes to Josh. James agreed, and said this is just public comment/discussion.

Josh: Four square still happens, damming the water and sweeping still happens, tag etc. No problem. We have had some behavioral issues that stemmed from the playground. We had a meeting and reminded them of the 3 r’s. Respectful, Responsible, Ready to be safe/have fun. That went out to the staff in a memo. Recess monitors have been meeting to establish standard rules of the games so they could be consistent. There is a way for students to relay issues to adult supervisors and the students have a spot for them to sit out for a moment when they are not following the 3 R’s.

Robbin said that she came across some of the things being enforced, such as balls only allowed on blacktop, run in certain areas, etc.

Josh was going to take a look at the rules and

Josh will remind the community about the Poll and the decision will be made later.

Benton County Foundation: Offering some money for outside/project based, hands on facilities. \$1-5000 and \$5000-\$10000 grant options. Ag Science, stream table, chicken coop, green house, planting tables, raised beds, dump truck load of top soil were among the teacher suggestions. Josh asked for suggestions from the Board/others.

Capital projects: Tonya suggested that we have 3 months average AR ~\$200K
Next Year's budget is based on 120 students

Treasurer Report: Karen: we need to solicit more funds from alumni and community, we expected \$~35K/year and we haven't been meeting that. This Year's ADM is \$8241 Enrollment is 97. Josh, Karen and Tonya will meet again and work on some budget scenarios for the Board.

PTO: Jamie H., Saffron, and Susan, others... Stipends, nature walks, Mountain Day (Mary's Peak later this spring), SPED was discussed. SPED meeting was well attended with lots of participation. Josh was thanked for his advocacy.

James asked about the campout (traditionally the last week or week before the last week of school-on a Friday +/-)

SPED:

Josh went through the Charter and has tried to get an idea of responsibilities. It seems like behavior support, etc, it is up to MC to staff those areas. The District is to provide a SPED person. Josh said that WMC receives no money for SPED from the district. Behavior Specialists vs. SPED is a bit of a gray line in some cases. The district takes part of MC student's AMD (~12.5%), but also takes the all of the SPED money for our identified SPED students.

Jamie asked how we can advocate for our school's SPED money? Josh stated that the District is feeling some pressure and we need to establish a clearer understanding of where responsibilities are. The District feels that they are meeting all the requirements of the individual IEP's. The Case Manager is also supposed to work with the teachers to satisfy a student's IEP.

Erin asked how other charter schools are navigating this? Josh didn't know how others did it.

Megan said that lesson plans/support have not been given to teachers.

James said it seems like the District changed their model, and didn't tell MC or work with us.

Lester asked what the resource gap was between MC expectations/needs and what the District is providing. Josh suggested that the District's person was half-time, and it was not enough and led to turnover.

Megan said that a lot of parents are paying for a lot of services/supplies etc each month. Padding the “progress reports”, but doing so despite the district’s lack of support.

Josh said there was a 2 month gap between an unexpected departure, and a new staff hire. So there has been a build up of needs.

A lengthy and inconclusive discussion of student needs, funding sources, and legal parameters ensued.

Josh is continuing to advocate for the students and parents, and working with the district to find solutions.

James dug out a relevant email from the District that suggested the District was ultimately responsible for SPED success.

Erin is hosting the Kinders at her farm next week.

Meeting adjourned 9:16