

Prairie Creek Community School
School Board Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2023 ~~February 23, 2023~~ @ 7:00pm
Prairie Creek Community School, Northfield MN 55057

- 1 Call to order 7:06pm
- 2 Attendance

2022-2023	Aug 25	Sep 22	Oct 27	Nov 17	Dec 22	Jan 26	Mar 2 (Feb 23)	Mar 23	Apl 27	May 25	Jun 22
Shelly Dickinson	✓	✓	X	✓	C	✓	✓				
Zaki Haidar	✓	✓	X	✓	A	✓	X				
Kelsey Fitschen-Hemmah	✓	✓	✓	✓	N	✓	✓				
Tim Goodwin	✓	X	✓	✓	C	✓	✓				
Beth Molitor	✓	X	✓	✓	E	✓	X				
Nancy Dennis	✓	✓	✓	✓	L	✓	✓				
Lyndsey Reece	✓	✓	✓	X	L	X	✓				
Christine Williams	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓				
Margit Zsolnay	✓	✓	✓	✓	D	✓	✓				
Simon Tyler-ex officio	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Keith Johnson- ex officio	X	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Colleen Braucher	✓	✓	✓	X		✓	✓				

- 3 Recognition/Announcements: Simon for planning Ethiopian food for the entire staff. The Wolf Ridge staff for their work on a very cold week. All the parent volunteers that supported Michelle, Ryan, Cale and Jakob. The 2/3 team for hosting the camp-in and field trip day.
- 4 Public Comments: None
- 5 Approve Agenda
Moved: Lyndsey Reece
Second: Margit Zsolnay
Passed: Unanimous

6 Approve Minutes from the January 26, 2023 meeting

Moved: Margit Zsolnay

Second: Lyndsey Reece

Passed: Unanimous

7 Items for discussion and/or reports

a Affiliated Building Company (ABC) Information Session (Craig Kepler)

Craig presented to the board information and took questions regarding forming an ABC.

b Director Report

Enrollment and Waiting List for 2022/23

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Enrollment (current)	30	30	30	30	30	30	180
Waiting List (for 22/23)	0	1	0	14	5	0	20

Kindergarten Applications for 2023-2024: 44

Program Updates

Key program happenings / updates:

- PCCS arts’ residency with Karla Nwele was a great success. It culminated with an “informance” of the children’s dances on January 25 during an All School Gathering
- 30 fifth graders, four staff and a great team of volunteers engaged in a full week of nature-centered activities at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center
- Amber Reher led a mini “pizza” theme with the fourth graders during Wolf Ridge week
- A winter All School Book Club with Firebird by Misty Copeland was launched. The book club has connections with the January arts’ residency.

Staffing updates

- No updates

Building / Grounds

- Craig Kepler will provide information on charter school Affiliated Building Companies during the rescheduled March 2 board meeting
- The Environmental Club student group will begin meeting with St. Olaf students in March to plan spring hoop house / grounds projects

Community Connections / Outreach

- PCCS hosted an Open House for prospective families on February 11. The Open House was very well attended. The lottery for 2023/24 takes place on Monday, March 13, 2023
- The Northfield High School Jazz band performed for our children on February 9. Their rendition of The Squirrel of Pasadena was particularly well-received by the director
- A librarian from Dakota County libraries presented to fourth and fifth graders
- Community Connections hosted a Board Game Night for families on February 17

- Director Simon presented to the Charter Leader Network on the topic of Prairie Creek’s mission and real-world relevance in schools and learning

Professional Development

- Special Education Teachers provided training for the team of paraprofessionals on supporting behaviors
- Faculty Professional Development Day - Monday, February 20
 - ~ Teacher Development and Evaluation Plan Review
 - ~ Fastbridge Data Review
 - ~ Strategic Plan Updates
 - ~ Peer Coaching
- Faculty committees led professional development workshops:
 - Thematic Learning / Arts
 - Peer Coaching
 - Forest School - Resources and Activity Training
 - c Winter Strategic Plan Update-

February 2023 Status
Community Connections Events (Roller Fun, Board Games)
Weekly family updates supplemented by the director blog. Office project for implementation of electronic payment systems.
Student Council hosted a movie night for CAC, service committee made bracelets and raised money for CAC, SEL skit group wrote and presented 3 skits and a variety of school climate initiatives were completed.
Faculty PD focuses on themes. Addition of "theme check-in" at weekly faculty meetings.

HOM PD. Video review. Commitment to teaching a HOM lesson
PCCS hosting visiting teacher from (Minnesota Learner-Centered Network) MLCN organization. February 28. Michelle Martin honored with MN Environmental Educator of the Year award.

Second peer coaching cycle completed in February. Equity-centered All School Book clubs.
EC development of student-centered project to build raised beds inside hoop house. Forest Classroom professional development sessions. Implementation of Forest Classroom rotations at each team level.
Residency a great success. Strong Connections with stories of Great Migration/slavery. Teachers supported content in classrooms and specials classes.

Review of Spring to Spring calendar cycle at February professional development day. Reflection on progressive educator rubric goals. Establishment of task force to meld state and prog. ed rubrics.
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Teacher board member Kelsey organizing review utilizing data from MACS survey. Application for St. Thomas teacher residency program. Review of Educational Support Professionals as a pool for substitute teacher support.

Fall / Winter Development work raised 51k of 60k goal. Development committee planning for spring / next year. Planning for Charter Day at the Capitol / Invite legislators into school?

Research on ABC centered on policy and practice, interviews with lawyer, neighboring Charter school with an ABC. Feedback sessions at Feb board meetings

Director / Board Chair retreat in January to establish a succession planning process, supported by MDE trainings. School director "out of building" day/month to focus on mission-centered strategic projects - chair as accountability partner. Leadership Team roles review at February professional development day.

d Education Program Committee-Wolf Ridge and the 2/3 Camp-in are two things we have brought back this year. It was nice to have all the volunteers back in the building. We finished the all school book club Firebird by Misty Copeland. Theme is going well in lots of classrooms.

e Finance Committee-The current budget was presented to the board. The utilities have really increased and we are continuing to monitor . The committee discussed the audit proposals and they were reviewed. Abdo is the company with the lowest proposal and later in the meeting we will ask the board to approve the proposal, which was the cheapest proposal. The Finance Committee plans to bring a preliminary budget to the board at the next meeting. We have a strong fund balance that has given us a little bit of time to focus on the pandemic. Going forward we need to look at where we can save, as we do have a decreasing fund balance. We are looking for changes that would be least disruptive to the school. The main decision that came out of the discussion was to raise our development goal by \$20,000.

f Development Committee-Our goal next year will be \$80,000. We are looking at ways to increase our fundraising.

g Nominations Committee-4 candidate on the ballot and 3 open positions. Beth Molitor, Jessica Provanch, Christine Williams and Kelsey Fitschen-Hemmah

h Policy Committee Nothing at this time

i Sub Committee Reports

Arts' Committee

Submitted by Amy Haslett

Arts Committee met on Tuesday, February 21st to review the teacher survey about the January Arts Residency. The feedback from Karla's Great Migration themed dance instruction was overwhelmingly positive. We also discussed the Spring 2022 Arts Residency delayed culmination with the installation of the Prairie Creek nature drawings and plant descriptions now being scheduled for June. The committee confirmed an art visit from the musical group Helopsis for April 5th at the All School Gathering and an All School Arts Field trip on April 18th to the MN Orchestra. We are working on scheduling a May musical share and possible spring "in house" All School Gathering shares by Audrey, Andrea, and potential alum. All with an eye on keeping a balance and not over scheduling!

Technology Committee

Submitted by Amber Reher

The Technology Committee met on Wednesday, March 1. The committee discussed staff printing issues and solutions. With help from Josh (Canopy) we are checking in on updating the faculty computer update cycle. Josh will also check in on the status of student chromebooks and headphones prior to the April MCA testing season.

Wellness Committee

Submitted by Connie Menssen

The Wellness Committee met for the 2nd of 3 annual meetings on 2/8/2023. We had 5 agenda items. Most importantly we discussed the new food service company we are using and the revamping of our school's annual vision screening program. We will revisit both of these topics at our April 26, 2023 meeting. Additionally, in compliance with the USDA National School Lunch Program, the triennial assessment of our wellness policy has been completed and is available on our website.

8 Items for Action

a Affiliated Building Company formation Approval

Moved: Nancy Dennis

Second: Shelly Dickinson

Passed: unanimous

b Approve Auditor Contract with Abdo

Moved: Lyndsey Reece

Second: Kelsey Fitschen-Hemmah

Passed: unanimous

9. Adjournment 8:48pm

Next board meeting Thursday, March 23, 2023 @ 7:00pm