

Prairie Creek Community School
 School Board Meeting Minutes
 November 16, 2023 @ 7:00pm
 Prairie Creek Community School, Northfield MN 55057

- 1 Call to order - 7:04pm
- 2 Attendance

2023-2024	Aug 24	Sep 28	Oct 26	Nov 16	Dec 21	Jan 25	Feb 22	Mar 21	Apl 25	May 23	Jun 27
Nancy Dennis	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Shelly Dickinson	X	✓	✓	X							
Tim Goodwin	✓	X	X	✓							
Ryan Kiesel	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Beth Molitor	X	✓	✓	✓							
Jess Provancha	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Lyndsey Reece	✓	X	✓	✓							
Christine Williams	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Margit Zsolnay	X	✓	✓	✓							
Simon Tyler-ex officio	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Keith Johnson- ex officio	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Colleen Braucher	✓	✓	✓	✓							

- 3 Recognition/Announcements - Amazing day for the Squirrel-a-thon. Thank you to the board and the development committee for their support. Thank you to all the staff and parents for making this event a success. Thank you to Jacob for making the fun running/walking route throughout the school yard.
- 4 Public Comments
- 5 Approve Agenda
 Moved: Lyndsey Reece
 Second: Ryan Kiesel
 Passed: unanimous
- 6 Approve Minutes from the October 26, 2023 meeting
 Moved: Ryan Kiesel
 Second: Margit Zsolnay
 Passed: unanimous

7 Items for discussion and/or reports

a Nominations Committee - New board members need to complete one training session prior to the end of December 2023.

b Education Program Committee - There was a Squirrel-a-thon and 2/3 culminating event today!

c Director Report - Strategic plan update to keep track of the school goals. Some updates include community connections and a parent education evening with Michelle Flannery. Parent Education night will be happening in early December on the topic, Building Independence in Children. Environmental group working with St Olaf, Arts committee is collaborating with St Olaf to create the Opera, which happens every three years. All staff professional development meeting focusing on Habits of the Mind and team building. All School book club will be upcoming.

Enrollment and Waiting List for 2023/24

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Enrollment (current)	30	30	30	29	30	30	179
Waiting List (for 23/24)	6	16	7	0	8	8	45

Program Updates

Key program happenings / updates:

- The 2-3 team took a field trip to Specialized Environmental Technology to learn about composting
- The Kestrels' hosted a Culminating Event on their Ancient Greece theme on November 2

Staffing updates

No updates

Building / Grounds

No updates

Community Connections / Outreach

- Community Connections hosted a "skittles" game event on Friday, November 10
- The GiveMN Squirrel-a-thon was on Nov 16. The fundraiser was featured in a Northfield News article
- Michelle Flannery and faculty will present a parent education session on the evening of December 4. Topic: Building Independence in children.
- Open House for prospective students is on December 5

Professional Development

- Simon attended an MDE School Leader Development / Evaluation workshop
- Simon attended a workshop by Gholdy Muhammad on Culturally and Historically Responsive Teaching and Learning
- The November 6 faculty professional development day focused on Opera residency planning, peer coaching and guided bird buddy planning
- Teacher-led Wednesday professional development sessions have centered on:
 - 8 Committee meetings
 - 9 Eco-Art
 - 10 All School Book Club planning

Mission Statement	Values	
Prairie Creek is a community school	<i>Families, teachers, staff and students collaborate to create a joyful and challenging climate for learning.</i>	
	<i>We work to building an inclusive environment to which all belong.</i>	
	<i>We embrace the experiences, identities and perspectives we all bring.</i>	
Strategic Focus Areas	Actions 23/24	November 2023 Status
Reestablishing community connections and traditions	Community Connections Committee will establish calendar of activities/ events, including three summer activities	There have been four community connections events. In addition, we hosted a new K family welcome at the back to school social. Each class hosted a social event.
Reviewing and enhancing communication and outreach to parents	Integrate new Community Connections leadership role	Michelle Martin has embraced this new position, coordinating community events and activities
Parent education and events	Mental health - Utilize new funding to staff additional mental health and support services	On Dec 4 Parent Ed Night with Michelle Flannery, Building Independence in Children. Staff are utilizing Michelle F. support services for children/families
Prairie Creek is a child-centered school	<i>Children discover their power in an experiential learning environment.</i>	
	<i>We honor the whole child and attend to the well-being of each individual - socially, emotionally, physically, and academically.</i>	
	<i>We strive to know children deeply and assure them of their value.</i>	
Strategic Focus Areas	Actions 23/24	November 2023 Status

Environment Committee - collaboration with St. Olaf	Hoophouse and Prairie Project development	ERC meetings have begun. Hoop House being cleaned/readied for planting projects. Grant writing projects in process.
Study of thematic learning and literacy	Review and implementation of READ act and revised literacy plan. Professional development on literacy connections with Social Studies / Science centered themes.	A READ act implementation timeline has been established. Tiered intervention notifications were sent to families in the fall. Interventions are in progress.
The Arts	Arts Residency - Opera creation and performance with St. Olaf faculty and students.	Faculty met with St. Olaf's Dale Kruse. Nov 6 PD staff brainstormed theme (100 year old school) Bird Buddy cohorts have begun planning their acts. The residency begins on January 5 and concludes on January 29.
PCCS is a progressive education school	<i>We are committed to inquiry, innovation and reflective practice.</i>	
	<i>We support children in developing the skills and habits of mind that cultivate a lifelong love of learning</i>	
	<i>We share our philosophy and practice with others</i>	
Strategic Focus Areas	Actions 23/24	November 2023 Status
Integrating Habits of Mind across the program	Embed the Habits of Mind in philosophy and practice	October 18 All Staff PD meeting. HOM are more and more part of common language among staff and children. Resources (videos) are helpful resources that classrooms are using.

Professional Development focus on Literacy	All School Book Club review and development	A Family Like Ours by Frank Murphy and Alice Lee will be the first all school book club
Multi-Age structures	Review and enhancement of "bird buddy" multi-age system. Develop and pilot "guided bird buddies" program.	The All School Book Club and the Opera will utilize vertical learning groups
Prairie Creek works to make the world a better place	<i>We engage in democratic decision-making and problem-solving where children are empowered to speak their voice and effect change in pursuit of a just and compassionate world.</i>	
	<i>We challenge and prepare one another to understand and actively resist racism and other societal injustices.</i>	
	<i>We nurture a close connection with nature and promote environmental stewardship.</i>	
Strategic Focus Areas	Actions 23/24	November 2023 Status
Embed educating for equity in to all programmatic areas	Coaching for Equity approach embedded in peer coaching model. In professional development, review equity focus with new literacy initiatives	The first round of peer coaching took place on the November 6 PD day. The faculty undertook PD on using read aloud as a vehicle for equity conversations.
Forest School Connections to Literacy	Professional development committee review of literacy connections across the curriculum, including outdoor learning.	
Building and Grounds - Environmental Stewardship Initiatives	Collaboration with St. Olaf Environmental Studies class. Grant writing initiative to explore installation of geothermal heating and cooling / hoophouse projects	St. Olaf class has provided narrative documents to support future grant writing projects
Sustainability	<i>PCCS is a public, progressive school committed to sustainable leadership, staffing, financing and building/ grounds management.</i>	
Strategic Focus Areas	Actions 23/24	November 2023 Status
Teacher development	Full Implementation of Teacher Evaluation Plan utilizing Progressive Educator rubric	Nov 6 PD Day coaching and reflection time for teachers

Sustainable staff recruitment and retention	Participation in St. Thomas charter school program - two resident teachers / New mentoring initiative for induction teachers	Two resident teachers are in full swing in their roles.
Special Education / Intervention Services	Transition to new PCCS' Special Education director	In progress
Financial sustainability	Development of strategic actions for future financial sustainability	The finance committee review long term budget planning, More conversations are in progress with board and staff.
Building / grounds management	Transition to Affiliated Building Company model	Jan/Feb estimated date for completion
Leadership sustainability	Implement next phase of leadership succession plan with new teacher leader roles	Main shift this year has been defining more clearly what the compensated teacher leadership roles entail.

b Finance Committee: The finance committee met tonight. There are no big changes from last month. We talked about next year's budget. It is tighter than normal . Our fund balance still looks good at the end of this fiscal year. We discussed fundraising as well.

c Development Committee: We reached \$40,000 of our \$50,000 goal right before the board meeting tonight.

d Policy Committee: Nothing at this time

e Sub Committee Reports

11 Items for Action

a No items

9. Adjournment 7:58pm

Next board meeting December 21, 2023 @ 7:00pm (Third Thursday due to Winter break)