

Prairie Creek Community School  
 School Board Meeting Minutes  
 December 21, 2023 @ 7:00pm  
 Prairie Creek Community School, Northfield MN 55057

- 1 Call to order - 7:03pm
- 2 Attendance

2023-2024	Aug 24	Sep 28	Oct 26	Nov1 6	Dec 21	Jan 25	Feb 22	Mar 21	Apl 25	May 23	Jun 27
Nancy Dennis	✓	✓	✓	✓	X						
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

The staff recognizes the board for all their support in 2023. Colleen for her help gathering information for the sick and safe time compliance policy and learning the new banking system. Simon and office staff for all their work regarding the temporary reopening of Hwy 86. All the teachers for the many learning opportunities that have happened in the past month including the culminating events and the community events. Teachers were engaging the children up through the very last day before winter break.

- 4 Public Comments - no guests
- 5 Approve Agenda  
 Moved: Lyndsey Reece  
 Second: Shelly Dickinson  
 Passed: unanimous

6 Approve Minutes from the November 16, 2023 meeting

Moved: Margit Zsolnay

Second: Ryan Kiesel

Passed: unanimous

7 Items for discussion and/or reports

a Nominations Committee - Three board members term will end June 2024. Of the three board members, two would like to be on the ballot for the next term. A letter will go out to parents and community members in early January to communicate the call for nominations. Also, an Information Session will be held in mid-January.

In addition, training has been completed by all community members for 2023-2024 term.

b Education Program Committee: Parent Education Night was a great evening attended by about 30 parents. Break out groups were led by teachers. This is the first of 2 parent education nights this year. The next will be math in February. Multiple culminating events, Kestrels, Robins, Heron and Doves took place this month. Our first all school book club, during All School Gathering, ASG, occurred. The book *A Family Like Ours* was read during ASG. The 1/3 team will read the book multiple times, at least three times. We often look to the 1/3 students to lead a discussion during the gathering of bird buddies. The 2/3 team participated in hemslojd which brought much joy within the building. The opera will start next month with Professor Dale Kruse. This will be our 4th opera with St. Olaf. There will be a performance on January 29th at the Northfield Middle School. Special Persons' day was held on Friday, December 15. It was a really fun day with lots of guests. We are on our third round of the "Trout" project. Trying to raise trout in a tank in the 1/2 hallway. It has been really fun to see children of all ages cautious around what is happening in the tank.

c Director Report:

**Enrollment and Waiting List for 2023/24**

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
<b>Enrollment (current)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>Waiting List (for 23/24)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>49</b>

**K Waitlist for 2024-2025: 40 (Dec '22: 23; Dec '21: 5; Dec '20: 13)**

**Program Updates**

Key program happenings / updates:

- Several Culminating Events:
  - Robins - Minnesota Stories
  - Hérons - Pre-Revolutionary Theme
  - Doves - Ants
  - Kestrels - Science and Culture of Sounds

**Staffing updates**

New hire. Nick Hager, Special Education Paraprofessional

## **Building / Grounds**

No updates

## **Community Connections / Outreach**

- Community Connections hosted a “winter solstice” gathering on Saturday, December 16
- The GiveMN Squirrel-a-thon was on Nov 16. The fundraiser was a great financial and community success. The event was featured in the Northfield News.
- Michelle Flannery and faculty presented on the topic of Building Independence in Children, a parent education session on the evening of Dec 4. Approximately 30 parents were in attendance
- A well-attended Open House for prospective students was hosted on December 5
- Special Person’s Day was on December 15. There was a full gym of guests present for two sessions. Guests toured the school, joined children in class activities and enjoyed a musical performance in the gym
- Simon attended MACS public policy forum

## **Professional Development**

- Teacher-led Wednesday professional development sessions have centered on:
  - Opera planning
  - Emotional Freedom Techniques
  - Math. Oracy; Current practice review
  - Peer Coaching
- d Finance Committee: The budget outlook column has been added to the financial overview. When the finance committee met today they also looked at longer range forecasts. We submitted a grant for 30 Chromebooks and are waiting to hear if we will receive the grant.
- e Development Committee: The squirrel-a-thon was a good success. A letter was sent out at the end of the year asking for donations.
- f Policy Committee
  - i Employee Manual Update for earned sick and safe time compliance
- g Sub Committee Reports

## **Technology Committee**

The tech committee met this week and discussed feedback from a survey sent to faculty about their technology needs. Liz has requested a television similar to those in classrooms to use in the art room to display current artists and artwork digitally and without the necessity to purchase and store printed artwork. Calvin with Canopy suggested to us how to stream video more smoothly via Apple TV. We are waiting to find out if we will be the recipients of a grant for additional chromebooks. To date, we have used \$3,596 of our technology budget of \$6,000.

Submitted by Stacey Sandler

## **Arts Committee**

The Arts Committee met on Dec. 13th to discuss Opera plans for this year as well as create a list of artists to contact to share dance and music for future All School Gatherings. We also discussed the new calendar deadlines for the MN state arts grants and began to think ahead to arts possibilities for 2024-25 school year and potential funding sources to augment the arts residency budget.

Submitted by Amy Haslett-Marroquin

## **8 Items for Action**

- a Approve 2022 IRS Form 990 Tax Return

Moved: Ryan Kiesel

Second: Beth Molitor

Passed: unanimous

b Consent Agenda

Moved: Lyndsey Reece

Second: Ryan Kiesel

Passed: unanimous

9. Adjournment 8:14pm

Next board meeting January 25, 2024 @ 7:00pm