

Minutes for regular CVMS meeting on
Sunday, May 6, 2007 at 7pm
Glacier View School Library

Presided by: Britta Neumann

Attendees:

Mary-Anne Clement	Colleen Clark	April Brosko
Len Brosko	Kathleen Murphy	Allison Beauchamp
Pauline Rae	Susan Teasdale	Jeanine Fukui
Lisa Wilcox	Julia Lai	Dale Kuzma
Gail Herman	Karen Silvester	Erin Brillon
Karen McKinnon	Elizabeth Russell	Kellie Sagadore
Andrea Kreager		

Called to order by Britta at 7:10:

- ♪ Lisa wished to amend the previous minutes to reflect that only the President, Treasurer and Secretary are stepping down at the AGM in June. Motion to accept the amended minutes by Susan, 2nd by Gail.
- ♪ Motion to accept agenda by Gail, 2nd by Mina.

Members' Reports

- ♪ Were not covered at the meeting in order to allow for discussion time of an urgent matter. Reports added to minutes via email from directors. Reports will be attached to minutes in written format for official filing purposes and for the web site.

Announcements

This is a special meeting to concentrate only on the direction that the members want to take with the program. Britta and Jeanine have been called to a meeting with the school board administration regarding a letter that was sent to them to alert them of the lack of Montessori trained TOC and the halt to the Montessori education in the classroom. (The letter was shown to attendees.) Britta and Jeanine need to know precisely what the parents want for their children in the program and so this meeting is solely to focus on that.

New Business

- ♪ On Monday, March 25th, 2007 our directress began a medical leave of 3-6 weeks.
- ♪ Without Montessori direction in a prepared environment our program was effectively suspended and the regular curriculum put into place.
- ♪ Due to the absence of a Montessori directress, a decision was made to cover up or remove some of the materials in the classroom in order to keep them from being misused (which is detrimental to the children's active education as

well as potentially damaging to the materials) while Anne Buchanan is recuperating.

- ♪ The letter was sent to inform the trustees that the program had been suspended due to lack of a teacher etc... to which Britta received a phone call from Allan Douglas saying that the board was unhappy with the letter. They have requested a meeting with us and the date agreed to was Apr. 23 at 8:00am. The upcoming meeting on April 23rd will hopefully shed some light on why.
- ♪ For quite some time now the CVMS has been requesting that a qualified TOC be sought for by the school district. We have not received an answer of why not, or a plan to correct the situation. We were told that the current TOC information form was updated (early 2007) to allow TOC's to add information about any Montessori training they had received.
- ♪ When the CVMS was started, the member parents felt VERY strongly that in order to provide a QUALITY program of choice, we would need qualified, experienced teachers. This was clearly outlined in our original proposal.
- ♪ We have asked SD71 to look outside the district and to find a teacher that is qualified BEFORE the third round of teacher hiring (May 07) but they came back to say that this was not possible due to provincially negotiated sections of the contract. They have led us to believe that no other teacher in the district is qualified.
- ♪ We are concerned by waiting to the 3rd round, qualified teacher will have already been placed elsewhere, leaving no one to uproot themselves and move here.
- ♪ Feedback from members and parents is required, as the CVMS board are not prepared to go to this meeting, speaking for the members without being completely informed as to what the members want.
- ♪ How important is it to have a fully qualified Montessori teacher with experience as a full time directress vs. someone with seniority in the district that has taken a quick Montessori distance ed. course.
- ♪ Lisa Wilcox has been in touch with a qualified Montessori teacher who is willing to move with her family to the district for the upcoming kindergarten position so the chances are that if the SD honours our proposal with respect to the teacher qualifications that were outlined in the proposal we could still get our teacher.
- ♪ The problem at hand is that the SD has never acknowledged on paper that they accepted our proposal nor have they ever disputed any language IN the proposal. We need to have a commitment from them in order to ensure that a teacher with more seniority and a 2-week online Montessori course can't usurp Anne or any other fully qualified Montessori directress.
- ♪ Questions about student teachers and practicum students were discussed. As stated in the proposal, during the pilot phase we cannot expect the directress to train and mentor a new teacher while trying to get the program up and running smoothly.
- ♪ Parents want to know how the SD justifies this lack of a teacher. Parents strongly voiced that they do not see how it is optional. Would they put a teacher who does not speak French into a French Immersion classroom?

Jeanine and Britta have met with Dr. Tinney and he has not given a clear answer. The CVMS has suggested several options but no action has been taken.

- ♪ CVMS has asked members at previous meetings to investigate what course of action teachers from out of province/country need to do to get a job here. No answers have come to us yet.
- ♪ Questions regarding the statistics of currently qualified teachers in BC or elsewhere were tabled until we can find time and volunteers to research this.
- ♪ Parents wanted to know why the pilot was accepted in the first place. Lisa explained the Achieve BC program. The programme is not costing the SD any extra money. It looks good for SD71 to have choices and we have committed to provide the materials while SD71 has committed (??) by putting the program in motion- to provide the classroom and the teacher.
- ♪ Questions regarding the difference between a 2 week online certification vs. a 1 year distance ed course vs. the 2 year + practical certification were addressed. 2yrs = qualified by the Montessori Foundation (?). The biggest problem is the lack of classroom experience with the distance ed courses. Lisa suggested a compromise of a 1-year distance cert. Plus X years of classroom time. All were in agreement that the 2-week online program is NOT acceptable.
- ♪ At the January SB meeting where we did a PowerPoint presentation about the program we were told by Dr. Tinney that he had spoken to the union head that morning about posting rounds 1 & 3 simultaneously to give us a better chance at getting a qualified out of district teacher to come here. This led us and the press to believe that it was going to happen. He then informed us of the May 15th date and said he misunderstood contract wording.
- ♪ Parents who want to write about their concerns to SD71 need to address the board appropriately in order for all of them to get the message. Gail will send a blank MS word doc with the names and addresses for people to use. Fax was suggested to expedite the deliver of parent's messages. Parents were cautioned against sending letters by email because CVMS emails have been typically ignored and unanswered. Erin mentioned that we need to be very clear in our letter if we are stating our opinions or issuing a demand.
- ♪ Questions regarding whether the SD would lend their name to ads run by us for the job were answered. This is not acceptable to the teachers union or the SD. To date the SD's involvement has been undetectable by us and Lynda-Marie Handfield is in charge of the hiring. Lynda-Marie Handfield does not take direction from the CVMS and we're not sure whose direction she is working under.
- ♪ The posting in its current form is vague (this cannot be changed). Dale iterated that it should be VERY specific.
- ♪ A show of hands indicates that it is unanimous – all parents agree that the full time directress needs to be fully qualified and experienced as outlined in the proposal
- ♪ A show of hands indicates that it is unanimous – **Every effort should be used by SD** to find a qualified TOC for the program and regular TOC's to be used

only if every effort is exhausted and no qualified Montessori teacher is found. Opinions varied from parents who consider pulling their children from the program due to extended absence with unqualified replacement to those who are content to wait it out and hope for the best.

- ♪ The parents in attendance tonight are in agreement that the level of participation from the SD in reference to our proposal does not meet the needs of the children, the parents or the program and this must be put forward to the administrators on April 23rd. Parents recommended CVMS board to reiterate the previously submitted proposal since it already covers the subject at length.

Old Business

- ♪ **FUNDRAISING** – the core group of volunteers is burned out! New and eager fundraisers are needed in order to raise the funds for classroom # 2. What we have done so far was covered – Service clubs & organisations ☺ Large corp. sponsors ☺ hotdog sales ☺ carwashes ☺ mixes, seeds, entertainment books ☺ Friendship Ball ☺ Art Auction ☺ Tax Ded. donations by parents ☺.
- ♪ Elizabeth is willing to lead a group of volunteers into an Art Auction type venue with a goal of attaining thousands of dollars in one shot. A volunteer list was passed around. Gail reminded that if everyone puts in a little effort then it doesn't become a momentous workload for the small core that always shows up.
- ♪ **WHAT TO DO WITH THE MATERIALS if the school district wants us to donate them to SD71** – This was voted on last year and will have to be voted on again at the AGM if the issue is even raised.

Adjourned at 9:30