

Comox Valley Montessori Society Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2016

Present: Sarah Countess, Sherry Turnbull, Amelia Valmorbida, Tammy Swatsky, Tine Boccalon, Christine Vanderee, Trish McPhail, Michelle Hawkins, Katie King

1. Meeting Call to Order – 7:24
2. Introductions
3. Adoption of Agenda – Katie adopted, Trish seconded
4. Review and Adoption of Minutes from January - Sherry adopted, Amelia seconded
5. Reports
 - 5.1. Admin Report – Christine
Montessori Info Night is scheduled for March 9th from 6:00-7:30 ta the school. Three classrooms will be open for demos, a video presentation is prepared. Greta will be speaking on what the program is like for her as a student and we are in contact with some students who have graduated from the program to speak on how Montessori prepared them for the move to high school.

It looks like Kindergarten registration night will be April 5th or 6th.
 - 5.2. President’s Report – Sherry
 - 5.3. Vice President’s Report – position vacant
 - 5.4. Treasurer’s Report – Michelle
No change to the accounts.
 - 5.5. Secretary Report – Katie
There have been almost no volunteers step forward for the high tea.

It was mentioned that new parents feel like they aren’t getting enough information. Discussion was held as to the best way to address the issue, which was to attend the monthly meetings.
6. Old Business
 - 6.1. The gift for Lynn has been purchased and given.
 - 6.2. High Tea - The school is holding May 15th vacant but it is starting to look like the tea will not be held this year. The church that usually meets on Sundays has allowed us to use the facilities on the 15th.
7. New Business
 - 7.1. Info Night – See Admin report

7.2. SD71 School Week feedback – (notes taken from the February 17th PAC Meeting)

An overview was given of the proposed adjusted school week. Information on this topic is also available on the SD71 website. In accordance to the mandate of every school board to manage under a balanced budget, substantial changes are going to have to be implemented for the upcoming school year. At the time of our meeting, the projected budget had a \$2.3 million deficit. One of the suggestions to help offset this was to implement a half day every Friday. This 4.6 day school week is still in the information stage and still gathering feedback; go to the sd71 webpage to submit any opinions on this discussion.

Questions and Answers on the topic: Would we reduce Spring break if this system was implemented? Yes, Spring break would be reduced to one week.

Will 50 minutes of PLC be enough for the teachers? Unsure as of yet.

If there was no school on a Monday (such as a STAT holiday) would the Friday of the week change? No. Regardless of where the STAT lands, the half day Fridays would be the same.

Janice Caton shared more on the topic. This model would potentially save \$1.7-\$1.9 million.

The proposed closure of Puntledge school would save approximately only \$600,000. Programs are still going to be cut. There are places for feedback with regards to these matters, one is again on the website, and another is through the public meetings organized to discuss these matters.

There are three currently scheduled, please see the website for dates times and locations.

Other solutions apart from the 4.6 school week and the closure of Puntledge have included ideas such as cutting the bus system, which would most affect the students at or below the poverty line. The reduced school week is the least harmful solution so far. The final decision on the topic will be known early May. The meeting with regards to the closure of Puntledge and the school boundary changes is to be held on March 15th.

8. Adjourn at 8:10