

Parent Meeting Minutes  
10-18-18

Parents in attendance: Tiffany Hill, Matthew Rosenquist, Camila Greco, Carrie Martin, Margaret Dunlap, Mary Beth Griffith, Kasey Jones

Staff in Attendance: Savannah McCay, Denise Liberi, Ayana Verdi, John Verdi

Upcoming Elective: Brevard Zoo

- We are transitioning to a Monday through Friday elective schedule due to the change in our PBL weeks schedule.
- Monday through Friday will be at the zoo. In order to facilitate that elective everyone must have a membership to the zoo. Please send a copy of the zoo membership.
- We will break up the course blocks similarly to how we broke them up in the MRC elective, with four groups.
- Drop off is at 8:15, but the zoo doesn't open until 9. The drop-off location will be emailed out once it has been decided.
- Students can wait to come until 9, but we have families who need to drop off at 8:15.
- Specialists: Jennifer Pettis, Amanda Rose Newton (Potential), and the Brevard Zoo Education Staff.
- All parents that are chaperoning must be fingerprinted. If you'd like to chaperone, please contact Carrie.
- Reminder that electives are choice. Please let us know if you are not coming as we are paying per student, and need to make arrangements.

Specialists:

- This semester we've been working really hard to not only make an optimal schedule for our children, but also looking at the quality of our specialists. The specialists that you see this semester are specialists who have shown that they are working really hard to create a quality experience for these courses. This semester, we have less choices than we did, but we have honed in on quality experiences.
- We'd like to keep this schedule, but choices will continue to change as they do from semester to semester.
- Open Discussion: How are you feeling?
  - Loves that the classes are a choice because it gives the kids freedom over their classes.
  - Don't like that PE is a choice.
  - Love the consistency of the schedule and that Literacy and Math is every day.
  - The kids miss the full day of choices, but the parents love the core classes daily.

- Would like more STEAM courses and Specialists. Amanda Rose was our STEAM specialist for our choice courses and the MRC elective. Amanda's mom is currently ill and Amanda had to take a step back to take care of her. We are expecting Amanda to come back during Semester III. We'd like Amanda Rose to head the scope and sequence for our Science curriculum. Also, the last PBL unit is engineering and machines.
- Journey's schedule is so much better because there is consistency. It's created a balance for them.
- Introducing Ms. Bridget, Ms. Jessica, Mr. Seth and Mr. Kris.
  - Bridget: I grew up on a farm in Wisconsin and feel a connection to nature and the premise of this school. I am thankful to be apart of such a loving, conscious group of people that want to heal the earth as well as bring healing to the educational realm. I teach Classic Literature, Plant Based Cooking, Cursive, Nature Story and Play, as well as oversee aftercare. I am looking forward to getting to know you better.
  - Jessica: I teach herbalism, which means that I teach the kids that any plant that we eat or can use in our food can be used as medicine. The kids are learning about the common plants that we eat and take for granted, and how these have healing properties to our bodies. I'm beginning to learn more about wild natives and their medicinal properties as well.
  - Seth: Teaches Spanish, Florida First Nations (Florida Natives), Farm Entrepreneurism, Gardening to Journeys, and as a sub for Ms. Savannah at the end of the month!

#### Audit:

- We are currently in an accreditation audit that we have facilitated.
- We've chosen three accreditations to go for, one of which is the same as the public school accreditations here in Brevard County.
  - Association for Experiential Education: They are an international organization that is very competitive. They choose who they want to go see all over the world. They have indicated that they are interested.
  - Certification as an "Eco School": An international organization that looks for a foundation built on environmental sciences, eco- aware courses, sustainability, etc.
  - AdvancED
- A school must be serving students for at least two years before applying for accreditation.
- We are currently working on documenting all of our scopes and sequences, lesson plans, ability groups, etc. Once we have handed that information in, accreditors will

come and spend a few days with our school to look for impact on both students and the community.

- Some of our parents are wondering where Ayana is: She's been working a lot on the "behind-the-scenes" work for accreditations and the needs for our scholarships.

#### Board Meeting and Needs to Knows:

- Approving a budget: It's been brutal. We started the year with a ton of changes in terms of scholarships, disbursements, etc. We are going to work with an accountant to better manage the budget. An accountant is very expensive so we haven't had that yet. An accountant will cost around 600 dollars a month.
- We need an accountant to help with a financial audit in order to apply for larger grants and to get a Guide Star Certification which would rank our organization for donors who want to donate. It's like a credit score for not for profits. Even for Guide Star, we need a consultant to do it. For a small not-for-profit, we have to spend money to get money.
- We were approached by GRIT Pop-up to do an event that talks about the intersection between the farm and Space. NASA mentioned our school during the meeting between GRIT pop-up and NASA, and NASA specifically asked to work with our school. We will be doing a "Food to Farm to Space" event. NPR will be there, and a farm-to-table cooking show. November 15th.

#### **Proposal: Harvest Dinner on November 15th, instead of the 16th. We would do this before the Space Event.**

#### 1861 Highland Property:

- We need to start looking for ways to fundraise to obtain the down payment for the property. Our contract says that we would have it purchased by May. We need to raise \$50,000.
- John and Ayana wanted to purchase it themselves so that there was a lower down payment, and the school would pay them back, but they are concerned that they are already over-extended.

#### Kentucky Derby:

- We'd like to do the Kentucky Derby again. **We need to get going now.**
- We have things from last year that we can use for this year, and have been approached by Mainstreet EGAD to collaborate with.
- Fundraising Committee: We must start planning now. If you are interested in being involved, please email Carrie.

#### What's Hood:

- FIT Incubator: The students at FIT are beginning to work on a project that involves solving the problem of the Foosaner Art Museum closing. FIT committed to continue maintaining the museum until 2020, which means that the community only has a little over a year to try to save it. We are trying to work with the students to find solutions to the problem. Due to this, there will be a lot more people looking at what we're doing as a school and where we see the school going in the future.
- We will begin to put a lot more out there about our school via social media. Please share the things that we post so that we can broaden that network.

#### Speech and OT:

- We have reached out to Speech Path of Brevard and we're waiting on a site visit. We have also reached out to Seven Senses for OT.
- We have had a very difficult time with Cornerstone in terms of scheduling, as well as parent concerns of the organization pushing services that were not necessarily developmentally appropriate for that child. Unfortunately, we have said goodbye to that organization for our services.
-