



Sugar Maple Nature School Meeting Agenda

Date and Time

Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 6pm at the NOSD **Atrium**, 401 Highland Drive, Fredonia, WI 53021

Attendance: Brian Fortney, Diane Abbey, Korinne Haeffel-Petersen, Adam Eader, Cindy Raimer, Scott Byers, Sara, Jessica Koepsell, Brian Thomas, Justin Barrett, Michelle Travis, Kristen Byers, Sara Christy, Nicole Culbreth, Allison Servais, Brynn Stadler, Jaqui F, Amber Trainor, Mair Culbreth, Rayn Rossmiller, Nancy Byers

This is a meeting of the Sugar Maple School Governance Council in public for the purpose of conducting the School's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the agenda. More than 24 hours prior to the meeting, notice of the time, place, date and subject matter of this meeting was posted at the entrance doors at Riveredge Nature Center and the Sugar Maple Nature School. A copy was also posted on the school website and sent to the Northern Ozaukee School District.

Agenda

- I. Opening Items
 - A. Call the Meeting to Order
 - B. Record Attendance
 - C. Approval of Agenda
 1. Motion to approve agenda: Diane Abbey
 2. Second: Adam
 3. Vote: Motion carried unanimously
 - D. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 1. [July 27, 2023 Special Session Meeting Minutes](#)
 2. Motion to approve minutes: Brian Fortney
 3. Second: Adam Eader
 4. Vote: Carried unanimously

- II. Ad-Hoc Enrollment & Planning Committee Proposal
 - A. [Current enrollment impacts on budget](#)
 - B. [Presentation of Multi-Level Classroom Plans](#)
 - C. [Description of "typical day" in multi-level classroom instruction](#)

- III. Public Comment
 - A. [Pre-Meeting Written Public Comments](#)
 - B. Ami Rosengren - Two models were discussed. They were basically the same except the homerooms were different. Split homerooms or graded homerooms. Prefers to have the 4th graders kept together. Worried about the new teacher coming in and having to teach different classes.

- C. Sarah Neumann - Echoing Ami's question. Came across entirely differently during the meeting and the one slide didn't reflect what was discussed. Keep the classes together. 4th together and 3&5th together. She says the comments in the shared document were different. If we jumble all the grades together, she fears that a lot of families will pull.
 - D. Sara Tippet - Has a 3rd grader and a 5th grader. New to the school. Very concerned about both of her children due to having completely different needs academically. Understand the 4th grade not wanting to be broken apart. Doesn't want to limit future enrollment, however. More in favor of an abilities-based configuration. She would like additional information on exactly what the differences are. Much more comfortable with an abilities -based separation.
 - E. Jessica Koepsell - 3rd Grader and Kindergartner. Is Servais going to remain the 4th grade teacher and the new teacher responsible for the 3rd and 5th? She thinks it might be better to have an experienced teacher with the 3rd and 5th. Both models mentioned spending time in the classroom, does that mean less time outside. Are we still going to have access to the yurts and the building or just those spaces?
 - F. Tera Rogers - 4th grade parent. Harrison has been with the school since day one and had an amazing experience. Biggest concern is the peer-groups. Understands the academic groups, but feel that we need to consider the kids. Worry about potential negative impact on their relationships. Her son loves the relationships very much and she worries that if we merge the 3 grade levels that too many families will leave. Strongly encourages us to allow these kids to stay together.
 - G. Cindy Raiimer detailed the two homeroom models and clarified some of the questions:
 - 1. We will have both yurts and the building to split between the two homerooms per the facilities use agreement.
 - 2. Classes will still have the same opportunities to be outside.
 - H. Diane asked if the classes, no matter the model, would still be collaborative for some subjects.
 - I. Korinne asked how would the 4th grade maintain their tight knit group in either model?
 - 1. If they are in a homeroom of 4th graders only, they will be intermingled for sure for reading and math, and there are still opportunities for intermingling in other subjects.
 - J. Adam asked what amount of time will they be intermingled:
 - 1. Cindy responded that for sure it would be 1.5 hours for math and 1 hour for reading and then as the teachers seek to collaborate.
 - K. Cindy addressed the question about whether or not Mrs. Servais would teach 4th grade, but that decision hasn't been made.
- IV. Motion to vote in favor of option 1 (4th grade class and 3&5th grade class): Adam Eader
 - V. Second: Brian Fortney
 - VI. Discussion: Michelle Travis feels that Option 2 gives us more flexibility and sustainability for the long haul.
 - VII. Korinne Read Mrs. Servais's letter aloud out of respect to our pillar committing to supporting teachers.
 - VIII. Roll Call Vote:
 - A. Adam Eader - Yay
 - B. Diane Abbey - Nay
 - C. Michelle Travis - Nay
 - D. Brian Fortney - Nay
 - IX. Motion fails to pass
 - X. Motion to support option two (two 3/4/5 grade classes): Diane Abbey
 - XI. Second: Michelle Travis
 - XII. Discussion: More talk of families leaving if we combine 4th grade also of 3rd or 5th leaving..There was talk of doing a hybrid model where staff could carve out time where the grades are together.
 - XIII. Diane Abbey voted to rescind her motion
 - XIV. Adam proposed a third option: Option 1 (4th grade and 3rd and 5th grade) with silo'd social/emotional learning opportunities
 - XV. Diane proposed option 4: two 3/4/5 Grades with silo'd social/emotional learning
 - XVI. Adam moved that we vote for option 3: 4th grade and 3rd and 5th grade) with silo'd social/emotional learning opportunities
 - XVII. Brian Seconds
 - XVIII. Role Call:
 - A. Adam Eader - Yay
 - B. Diane Abbey - Nay
 - C. Michelle Travis - Nay
 - D. Brian Fortney - Yay

- E. Korinne Haeffel-Petersen - Nay
 - F. Motion fails
- XIX. Diane moved that we vote for option 4: (2 blended classes of 3/4/5) with silo'd social/emotional learning opportunities
- XX. Michelle seconds
- XXI. Discussion: this model gives the best of both worlds meeting social emotional needs, academic needs and keeps us open for recruitment
- XXII. Role Call:
 - A. Adam Eader - Yay
 - B. Diane Abbey - Yay
 - C. Michelle Travis - Yay
 - D. Brian Fortney - Yay
 - E. Korinne Haeffel-Petersen - Yay
 - F. Motion carried unanimously.

- XXIII. Enrollment Impacts on Staffing/Budget
 - A. Discuss Ad-Hoc Committee Proposal for multi-level classrooms
 - B. Motion(s) to adjust staffing to align with enrollment/budget

- XXIV. [Administrators Report](#)

- XXV. Community Events
 - A. GC Meet & Greet - NOSD Library 8/11 6-7:30pm
 - B. Back to School Orientation Night - 8/30 4-8pm

- XXVI. Business Operations
 - A. CESA 6 Staffing Services
 - 1. Teacher Contracts Approved 8/8/23
 - B. Name Change

- XXVII. Committee Reports
 - A. Financial
 - 1. CESA 5 Accounting Services
 - 2. 2022-2023 Audit prep
 - 3. No update since June. Seeking another vendor to support us in accounting. CESA6 will continue to support us in HR.
 - B. Facilities and Operations
 - 1. Adam met with the parties associated with the site. Awaiting some paperwork. Things are looking good.
 - 2. Conversations with Ozaukee County Park System about renting space with them.
 - 3. Working on signage. Doing a cost estimate so we can get to building
 - C. Exec Committee
 - D. PTO
 - 1. Diane is meeting with the PTO on Tuesday.
 - 2. Cindy has been working with them and been planning some of the events and volunteering opportunities.
 - 3. Also organizing the extra snack bins.
 - 4. Going to brainstorm strategies and objectives together to continue supporting the school.

- XXVIII. Closed Session
 - Motion to go into Closed Session

- a. The exemption in Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g) authorizes a closed session to discuss legal counsel advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.
- b. Pursuant to section 19.85 (1) ©Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.
- c. Motion to go into closed session: Adam
- d. Second: Diane
- e. Roll Call Vote:
 - i. Brian Fortney - Yay
 - ii. Adam Eader - Yay
 - iii. Diane Abbey - Yay
 - iv. Michelle Travis - Yay
 - v. Korinne Haeffel-Petersen - Yay
- f. Motion to go into open session: Brian
- g. Second: Diane
- h. Roll Call Vote:
 - i. Brian Fortney - Yay
 - ii. Adam Eader- Yay
 - iii. Diane Abbey - Yay
 - iv. Michelle Travis - Yay
 - v. Korinne Haeffel-Petersen - Yay

XXIX. Closing Items

- A. Adjourn Meeting
- B. Motion to adjourn the meeting: Michelle
- C. Second: Adam
- D. Vote: Unanimous

Governance Council (GC) Meetings

The GC hosts business meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month, and working meetings the 4th Thursday of the month starting at 6pm.

Notice: 2023-2024 GC Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, Sep 14, 2023 at 6pm in place of the standard business meeting.