



## Sugar Maple Nature School Governance Council Meeting Agenda

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### Date and Time

Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 6pm **HYBRID Meeting**



**Attendance:** Brian Fortney, Adam Eader, Michelle Travis, Ryan Reilly, Korinne Haeffel, Cindy Raimer, Melissa Teske, Allison Servais, Jessica Koepsell, Sarah Neumann, Jacob Hess

All items slated for a vote may or may not be voted on during this session

*This is a meeting of the Sugar Maple Nature 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.*

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### Agenda

- I. Opening Items
  - A. Call the Meeting to Order
  - B. Record Attendance
  - C. Approval of Meeting Minutes
    - 1.  20231012 Working Meeting 2023 GC Minutes
    - 2. Motion to approve the minutes: Adam
    - 3. Second: Michelle
    - 4. Comment: N/A
    - 5. Vote: Motion carried
  - D. Approve check register
    - 1. Motion to approve the check register: Ryan
    - 2. Second: Brian
    - 3. Comment: N/A
    - 4. Vote: Motion carried
  - E. Consent Agenda
    - 1.  PolicyLists.xlsx
      - a) 2416
      - b) 5530
      - c) 8120
      - d) 8141

- e) 8315
  - f) 8390
  - g) 8462
  - h) 8462.01
  - i) 9130
  - j) 9150
  - k) 9160
  - l) 9210
  - m) 9211
  - n) 9250
  - o) 9500
  - p) 9555
  - q) 9600
  - r) 9700.01
- 2. Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented: Michelle
  - 3. Second: Brian
  - 4. Comment: Brian will take the policies, put in tonight's date for adoption, and then .pdf the policies.
  - 5. Vote: Motion carried

## II. Public Comment

### A. Pre-Meeting Written Public Comments

- 1. Brian read 6 emails from families into the record.
  - a) Hello!

I'm just quickly sending in my family support for expanding the school to 4K and into middle school age. We would definitely be on board with that! I won't make the meeting tonight as I am just getting back to town but will be at future meetings.

Thank you!  
Kristin Siebert

- b) Hello,

I am writing to express my support and dedication in continuing to attend any future grades that may be added to SMNS.  
If a 4K were to be added next year I have a child that would attend. And should any additional grades be added such as 6th all 3 of my kids would attend eventually as their time comes.  
We plan on attending SMNS as long as we can!  
And any future children we may have!  
Sincerely!

Jessica Koepsell

- c) Dear Governance Council,

I was excited to learn of a possible extension to sixth grade next year. Our family is supportive of expanding to higher grades as we fully believe in the mission and vision of the school. We would love to see the students love for the environment nurtured throughout

their growing years and beyond. Adding more upper grades would help in encouraging our children to become stewards of the land as they mature. Please consider this option to expand Sugar Maple Nature School to upper grades.

Thank you,  
Ami Rosengren

d) Good morning,

I am writing regarding the agenda item surrounding potential funding for a 5th/6th split class next year. Our son is currently a fifth grader and we are very interested in plans for moving this forward.

We are out of town and unable to attend tonight's meeting, but we look forward to hearing more.

Mindy and Brian Schroeder

e) To Governance Council,

Good morning. We wanted to reach out to the governance council this morning to show our support of the Northern Ozaukee School District pursuing a grant to expand Sugar Maple Nature School by adding a 6th grade. Sugar Maple Nature School provides opportunities that are very unique and that no other middle school in our area currently can create on a daily basis. We all understand the challenges at the middle school level and we personally feel that it would be an outstanding opportunity to continue to change children's life through this unique teaching environment and we feel that a 6th grade program would be highly beneficial financially for the school district due to the challenges we see at other middle schools. Lastly, it would also help Sugar Maple Nature School retain students between 4th and 5th grade due to the mindset of kids that are currently attending not having to attend a middle school in the middle of the academic grade levels

We hope you will take all this into consideration and move forward with adding a 6th grade at Sugar Maple Nature School. It would be a huge asset to the kids, community, and the current school.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions, please let us know.

Jim & Courtney Ingman

f) We would like to voice our support in moving forward with applying for the expansion grant. We currently have a 5<sup>th</sup> grader


thriving in the mixed level class and we would be thrilled if he could attend next year in a combined 5/6th class.

In speaking with other 5<sup>th</sup> grade families, there is a lot of excitement at the possibility of keeping our children at Sugar Maple Nature School for the middle school years. 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents, ourselves included, have shared that they are willing to help out and assist in making this happen in whatever way we can.

Thank you,  
Melissa and Dustin Teske


- g) **Note:** Some of the original information has been edited to remove the names of children, and contact information of the families by the GC Secretary.

### III. Administrators Report

- A.  GC Admin Report Oct. 27, 2023
- B. NWEA Maps data
- C. [Lottery and Enrollment Process](#)
  - 1. Motion to update the lottery process to achieve compliance with state statutes: Michelle
  - 2. Second: Brian
  - 3. Comment: N/A
  - 4. Vote: Motion carried
- D. [Wisconsin awarded \\$58M charter school grant - FY23 UPDATE](#)
  - 1. Motion to formally hear the comments submitted by the public and the school through Cindy and support the filing of an extension grant and work through committee to research and draft the grant prior to final approval by the governance council before submission: Ryan Reilly
  - 2. Second: Michelle Travis
  - 3. Comment: Michelle wanted to reiterate that the public comment is valid and she wants to communicate that we need to be one, coherent community. WOULD like to survey the present population to gauge the interest (not commitment) in having their students stay through 6th grade.
  - 4. Vote: Motion carried
- E. Math Curriculum - the school needs enrichment, so need a 6th grade math curriculum, Bridges doesn't go to 6th

### IV. 3rd-5th Grade Model Feedback

### V. Policy Development

- A.  PolicyLists.xlsx
  - 1. 9700
- B. Motion to table this policy in the interest in time and for Ryan to weigh in on it: Michelle
- C. Second: Ryan
- D. Discussion: N/A
- E. Vote: Motion carried.

VI. SMNS Website Transition

- A. Bonfire Update
- B. SMNS website update
  - 1. Brian will help get policies ready to share

VII. GC Committee Discussion

- A. [Group Charges](#)
- B. Motion to formally approve Governance (formally Executive Committee), Facilities, Academic Excellence(formally Teaching and Learning) - to be lead by the Director of Education, Finance and Parent Advisory Committees: Ryan
- C. Second: Second
- D. Comment: Need to have the charges done by the next meeting.
- E. Vote: Motion carried

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Financial
- B. Facilities and Operations
- C. [Exec Committee](#)
- D. PTO

IX. 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)(c) 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: Michelle Travis
- d. Second: Ryan Reilly
- e. Comment:
- f. Roll Call Vote
  - i. Brian Fortney - Aye
  - ii. Adam Eader - Aye
  - iii. Diane Abbey - Absent
  - iv. Ryan Reilly - Aye
  - v. Michelle Travis - Aye
  - vi. Korinne Haeffel - Aye
- g. Motion to go into open session: Michelle
- h. Second: Ryan
- i. Comment:N/A
- j. Roll Call Vote
  - i. Brian Fortney - Aye
  - ii. Adam Eader - Aye
  - iii. Diane Abbey - Absent
  - iv. Ryan Reilly - Aye

- v. Michelle Travis - Aye
- vi. Korinne Haeffel - Aye

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

- 1. Motion to adjourn:Michelle
- 2. Second: Ryan
- 3. Comment:N/A
- 4. Vote: Motion carried.

**Governance Council (GC) Meetings**

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