

**New Morning Nursery School
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2020**

I. Attendees: Cherish Orozco, April Denton, Allison Hoban, Melissa Norstedt, Sarah Sherman, Kate Patterson, Keri Schlecht, Suzanne Lee, Rebecca Anderson-Brown, Jodi Carlson, Ashley Russell, Rae Reeson, Jen Granetzke, Cheryl Forcier, Mary Eileen Raymond, Sarah Sparks, Emily Litznerski Foster

II. Attendance and Meeting Process:

- a. Goal to make decision to move forward together. Begin with open forum with limited speaking time per individual, followed by discussion, followed by vote on motion to be put forth by board member.
- b. Attendance and introductions to clarify new roles – April Denton, Director; Cherish Orozco, President; Melissa Norstedt, Treasurer/Executive Committee; Sarah Sherman, Personnel/Executive Committee; Jodi Carlson, E-news; Kate Paterson, Social Committee; Emily Litznerski Foster, Social Committee; Suzanne Lee and Rebecca Anderson-Brown, Teacher Reps; Keri Schlecht, Member-at-Large; Allie Hoban and Melissa Norstedt, Room Parents; Jen Granetzke, Teacher (Willow) and Covid Committee member; Rae Reeson, Teacher (Willow) and Covid Committee member; Mary Eileen Raymond, Teacher (Birch); Cheryl Forcier, Support Staff; Sarah Sparks, Teacher (Oak); Ashley Russell, inactive board member

III. Open Forum: Time cap to encourage brevity of meeting while getting informed on teacher/non-board member perspectives to help board decision. Following is a summary of the comments and concerns raised:

- a. Difficulty bridging the disconnect between CDC/Covid Committee recommendations and early childhood development needs; impractical for children to wear masks properly and socially distance
- b. Suggestion to open virtually to introduce teachers and gain student comfort before transition to in-school and mask wearing; additional suggestions to increase safety with creative solutions, such as smaller class sizes and increase in outdoor time
- c. Increased amount of cleaning required under Covid Committee guidelines may not be feasible; sinks are essential to open safely (noted that Wingra will pay to install sinks heated by hot water heaters)
- d. For the good of the future of the school, important to open

IV. Open Discussion: Following is a summary of the comments heard during the discussion:

- a. Discussion of how beneficial virtual or altered school is to children; likelihood of some child development best practices being sacrificed in order to implement health, safety and cleaning policies; preference to avoid virtual opening because children need social and emotional interactions
- b. Discussion of greatly increasing outdoor time for all classrooms, being creative with class sizes and hybrid models of small group time mixed with virtual offerings
- c. Concern for protection of the health of teachers, parents and extended family members as well as unknown health factors as well as health and safety of children
- d. Noted logistical and staffing concerns for variety of situations that could occur, such as sick teacher, teacher awaiting test results or family members testing positive
- e. Wingra impacts noted – annual rent owed regardless; NMNS can open even if building/Wingra School is closed because NMNS has separate entrance sealed off from remainder of school
- f. Preliminary survey results discussed – many responses still outstanding with extended deadline; current enrollments – Oak: 18 morning students and 19 afternoon (enrollment mostly sustained); Birch: 13 MWF students and 8-10 TTh; Willow: 9 MWF morning students and 8 TTh morning, with proposal to offer MWF afternoon only, which would result in a class of 8-10 kids if TTh students move to MWF

V. Motion to Vote: Melissa motions to attempt to open in the fall. Suzanne seconds.

- a. Vote taken 6 to 3 in favor of opening

VI. Next issues: Board begins to compile issues for discussion at next board meeting.

- a. Given the result of vote to be in-person, board will discuss the following –
 - i. Number of students in classrooms
 - ii. Policies for handling health issues that arise
 - iii. Procedures for and frequency of emergency board meetings
- b. Proposal for additional weekly communications from April to families directly related to health and safety issues; April will handle and Suzanne will help
- c. Staffing issues: one support staff unavailable; April will try to hire float sub; one teacher's availability to be determined by own children's school decision; two support staff people needed for additional tasks

- d. Next steps to be accomplished prior to next board meeting – April to communicate to community that school will open; staff encouraged to attend board meetings going forward; post staffing needs on Facebook
- e. Meeting adjourned

Next meeting: Thursday, July 23rd at 7:30pm