Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title:	WCC Meeting	**Date:**	9.17.20		
President:	Susannah Numme	**Location:**	Zoom		
Minute Taker:	Molly Towner	**Start:**	6:03pm	**End:**	7:49pm
Attendees: Julie Pepe-Phelps (principal), Molly Towner (recording secretary), Alex Schutz, Peter Host, Marc Stover, Sue Armstrong, Susannah Numme (chair), Jessie Menkens, Paula Dobbyn, Darrel Vincek					

I. Opening

A .Motto of the social ethic

B. Song (Deep Peace)

C. Excitement sharing

II. Approval of Minutes: Jessie Menkens moved to approve the minutes as amended. Sarah Glaser 2nd. Approved unanimously.

III. **Approval of Agenda:** Jessie Menkens moves to add Business Item A: Principal Pepe-Phelps request. Marc Stover 2nd. Jessie Menkens motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Marc Stover 2nd. Approved unanimously.

IV. **Community Comments**: No comments

V. Informational Reports

A. Administrator's Report (Julie Pepe-Phelps):

attached

B. Faculty: (Sarah Glaser)

We are all learning a lot about technology; becoming experts at things we never expected to learn. Teachers said at faculty meeting today that they are working harder than they have in their career. After the release of the latest email from the district regarding the opening of neighborhood schools, there are more questions than ideas at this point. Teachers are concerned about an unpredictable rhythm, with the possibility of students going back and forth from in-person to online school. The decisions are also personal because we have staff members with small children who are immunocompromised. The faculty hopes to move slowly and to have a consensus about how to move forward.

C. WPG Report (Jessie Menkens)

To reflect on Ms. Glaser's report, parents can see and feel how hard the teachers are working. We know there are challenges behind the scenes, but we see the wonderful lessons being put forward. WPG thanks the faculty for the care and diligence they are putting into their work. In the WPG, there is an ongoing commitment to fundraising- and what that will look like this year. Families and WPG are inching into business this year. There is great engagement in the phenomenal group in that organization. Thank you to the faculty for the job they are doing.

D. Committee Reports

1. Administrative Committees (answers to principal)

a. Safety (Julie Pepe-Phelps)

We follow district protocol when working in our buildings. We wear masks in common areas. We may keep our masks off in our own spaces. Hand sanitizing and other protocols are also followed. We're allowed one family at a time inside the building. Staff members fill out a form each time they enter the school building. Mr. Edwin has been trained on some cleaning supplies/protocols. We will get the first load of cleaning supplies/PPE and would then will have to pay for any additional supplies out of our budget.

b. Outdoor play space (Julie Pepe-Phelps)

No report

2. WCC subcommittee

a. Legislative Policy Committee (Jessie Menkens)

Nothing new to report since last month. Still waiting for departments to release budgets.

b. Budget (Shana Garrels)

Nothing new to report since last month. Student count begins next month.

Questions/discussion about supplies. Winterberry will receive one shipment of PPE and cleaning supplies, but not including plexiglass, air filtration systems etc. Any further supplies will be purchased out of our budget. Jessie Menkens mentioned that the Rasmusson Foundation has some grants available for these items.

c. **Alliance for Public Waldorf Education**

In the 90's, the first public Waldorf schools were formed. AWSNA had a copyright on the word "Waldorf", so public schools had to be called "Waldorf-inspired". Eventually, there was a list of requirements that public charter schools could follow to be able to call themselves "Waldorf schools". Several people from Winterberry attended the most recent Alliance Conference. Julie zoomed with the new leaders of the alliance this week. The "Path to Membership" document needs to be reviewed by the WCC (and possibly the whole community) to become full members- and be able to use the term "Waldorf" in our name. The document provides a framework for self-reflection, deep thinking about our values as a school. A team would come up to review us in several site visits. If we decide to pay our dues, the cost is $10 per enrolled student. Teachers use the common core/Waldorf standards book to plan their blocks each year and assess student growth. The leaders of the alliance are willing to come to a WCC meeting to answer questions. Discussion about joining the Alliance next year (rather than this year), because we would not be pursuing the Path to Membership until next year.

d. **Grant Committee**

No update

VI. **Business**

A: Julie would like to request that the WCC write a letter to Superintendent Bishop proposing a specific plan for Winterberry that may deviate from the plan to return as outlined by the district, supported by the desires of the WCC, faculty, families, and administration. Julie would like the letter addressed to the superintendent requesting flexibility usually given to charter schools to serve our families best. Darrell has received multiple calls from APC's and principals at charter schools wanting to take a different path than what the district has outlined for opening. Timeline- Julie would like to put out a needs assessment of some kind to families early in the week.

Concern stated about the safety benchmarks that seem to be changing. How much flexibility do charter schools have? We can't be less restrictive than the rest of the district, but can probably be more restrictive. Question about how the decision making will unfold. Volunteers were requested to help with the survey. Sue Armstrong , Sarah Glaser, Paula, Dobbyn, and Jessie Menkens will work on the survey.

Jessie Menkens moved to empower Principal Pepe-Phelps to go ahead with survey development of our community and for a subcommittee to begin drafting a letter from the WCC to the Superintendent requesting flexibilities for our school moving forward. Sarah Glaser 2nd. Approved unanimously.

Gratitude:

For Julie, for standing in for our Kindergarten teacher.

For Jeremy Crawford, and all of the other teachers at Winterberry.

For Julie and the teachers for stepping up to the plate- and going beyond it .

For Darrell for being her tonight; supporting our school.

For WCC and faculty here tonight; helping with the governance of our school.

VII. Adjourn

Sue Armstrong moved to adjourn. Paula Dobbyn 2nd. Unanimously approved.

Principal's Report for WCC
9-17-20
Julie Pepe-Phelps

HEART

- Teachers, Students and their Families are staying connected-- parent feedback positive.
- Wellness abounds!

HANDS

- Support staff/TA's have organized storage sheds and continue their support of teachers in classroom organization and material distribution.
- Registration is complete. Grade 4 has one seat rolling—all other classrooms full or no wait list.
- Shana has been busy with ordering for Hybrid (whose numbers are growing!)

HEAD

- Student count so far this year: 248 (UP from 236 last year!)
- Teachers are getting better at Virtual instruction—more familiar and comfortable with process.
- Made contact with Alliance! Will go over later in meeting.
- District has plan to go back to classroom Oct. 19

Following is a verse by Rudolf Steiner that I continue to reflect on:

A Verse for Our Time

We must eradicate from the soul
All fear and terror of what comes toward us
Out of the future.

We must acquire serenity in all feelings and sensations
About the future.

We must look forward with absolute equanimity
To everything that may come.

And we must think only that whatever comes
Is given to us by a world-directive full of wisdom.

It is part of what we must learn in this age,
Namely, to live out of pure trust,
Without any security in existence.

Trust in the ever present help of the spiritual world.
Truly, nothing else will do if our courage is not to fail us.

And let us seek the awakening from within ourselves
Every morning and every evening.

Meeting Minutes