

Community of Montessori Parents (CoMP)

September 2016 Board Meeting

03/20/16

Present: Alison Aldred*, Dale Anderson, Celia Anderson*, Kate Andre*, Lorna Doone Brewer*, Sarah Byers#, Linda Bradley*, Ivory Coghlan*, Angela Geiss*, Suzie Henning*, Kari Hudson, Stephanie Hughes*, Sarah Iannelli#, David Jeter, Makaya Judge*, Natalie Kalal, Shannon Lawson#, Kelly Literer, Randi Madison*, Liz McGinn*, Jasmin Medina-Drexler, Teresa Schock*, Barb Scriven*, Katie Storo*, Amanda Wilfong*, Esther Wilson*.

*Voting Board Member

#Non-voting Board Member

Meeting called to order at 6:34.

Welcome and introductions.

New Meeting Procedures.

In order to abbreviate and create a more welcoming format for interested CoMP members (all parents/guardians/families/teachers of Spokane Public Montessori School), meetings will consist of two halves. The first half will be "PTG Business" with news from the principal and teacher representatives, reports on recent events, and notices about upcoming events. Following this, there will be a brief break at which point non-voting members may choose to leave if desired, then the "Board Business" section of the meeting will begin. All CoMP members are welcome to stay for the entire meeting but shouldn't feel obligated. Meetings are scheduled for 90 minutes.

PTG Business

Principal's Report – Shannon Lawson

- 2016-2017 school year = 15 Montessori classes, 417 Montessori students (466 students in all programs), 90 new students with approximately 24 new families.
- Contrast with 2014-2015 school year = 10 classes, <300 students
- Best start to the year in 3 year, unified history because the school community knows collectively the procedures and locations, etc. "Space" is the focus for the year, both literally and figuratively.
- Wednesday, September 21, 2016 is International Day of Peace and there will be a Peace Walk through the school.
- Also on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 the illustrator [Chris Elioulopolis](#) will be visiting the lower elementary classes at 1 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- The walkathon and family picnic was a great start to the year for building community from the first month. Thanks to Sarah I. for organizing it.
- The middle school program has begun its second year in dynamic and amazing ways. Shannon loves the circle of camp chairs that begins every week on Monday morning and ends the week on Friday afternoon.

Teachers' Reports – Linda Bradley, Amanda Wilfong (Lower EI rep while Lyzie Orlando is on maternity leave)

Lower Elementary: Joyful work to see the transitions for the first graders and their introduction to the "cosmic plan"

Upper Elementary: Working on the 5 Great Lessons as typical for the beginning of the year. Also fun to see transitions of new 6th graders (full of themselves with big ideas) as they realize their new role as leaders in their class communities. They are already talking about campout.

Liaison's Reports – Barb Scriven, Teacher Support and Liaison Committee, chair

Katie Storo explained the role of the liaisons as the class parent who supports the teacher in communication with other class families and recruits volunteers as needed in the individual classrooms. Almost all the teachers have a liaison and the committee is working with the teachers who don't, yet. The role is best filled with an SPM-experienced family member with whom the teacher feels comfortable.

Walkathon Report – Sarah Iannelli

- Walkathon is a service project and not a fundraiser for CoMP.
- In discussion with Principal Shannon Lawson for a plan on choosing the charities that will benefit from the money raised.
- 150 students checked in
- 40 parent volunteers + 1 middle school volunteer
- October 1 is the due date for turning in walkathon money. Please put money in the secure CoMP mailbox (newly installed on the wall outside the CoMP room 135).
- Successful, fun event with excellent participation. The check-in process will be altered next year to make it go more smoothly. Look for financial information on the walkathon at the next CoMP meeting (regarding amount of funds raised and chosen charitable organizations)

Harvest Festival Update – Lorna Doone Brewer, Fundraising Committee, chair

- ❖ Saturday, October 15, 1-5 p.m. SPM playfield (alternate rain plan = indoors)
- ❖ Free Admission
- ❖ Activities (for a donation/fee) include: cider press, pumpkin patch, photo booth, face painting, educational demos (such as soap making, wool spinning, worm composting, etc.).
- ❖ Items for sale via vendors booths (food and cottage-industry products such as jewelry, t-shirt printing, etc.). Some discussion on charging vendors a set fee (\$25/booth, \$20 for Montessori families) or asking them to make a donation at a \$25 minimum.
- ❖ Volunteers will be needed. Recruiting through various outlets (CoMP FB group, CoMP website, SPM weekly bulletin) including Monday Mail.
- ❖ The best support is to participate! Encourage all CoMP families and the surrounding neighborhood to attend.

Annual Appeal – Suzie Henning & Katie Storo

A letter will be sent to CoMP families explaining the history, mission and purpose of CoMP and its partnership with Spokane Public Montessori and Spokane Public Schools. It will be a "direct ask" to the community. There will be a meeting to discuss the letter on Saturday, October 8 at 11 a.m. at [Lindaman's](#) (1235 S. Grand Blvd).

Directory – Suzie Henning

There will be a directory of families this year to help CoMP members connect and communicate with one another. It will be published and distributed in Monday Mail. There is a need to wait for enrollment to settle then information will be gathered. Jasmin Medina-Drexler and Kari Hudson volunteered to help with this project.

Recruiting for the CoMP Board

Positions still unfilled on the board include 1) Secretary, 2) Campout Committee Chair, and 3) Grant Committee Chair. A list of the duties of each position will be shared upon request and are available on the website). The role of Secretary may rotate among all board members if the position remains unfilled. A suggestion was made to include student voices on the board, particularly a middle school student.

Music Innovates – Ivory Coghlan

- 8 hours/week of instrumental music instruction from professional symphony musicians
- 5th-8th grades at SPM are eligible (the requirement that MI participants be enrolled in band/strings at their SPS school has been waived for SPM 5th graders)
- 3:45-6 Monday-Thursday
- [Forms to register are online](http://www.spokaneschools.org/montessori) at <http://www.spokaneschools.org/montessori> under Music Innovates. They are due this Friday, September 23rd and the program begins Monday, October 3rd.

Board Business

Vote: Director and Scrip Coordinators – Though CoMP voted in June for new directors and Scrip Coordinators, there wasn't a meeting with recorded minutes which the bank requires to change signatories for CoMP's accounts.

- It was moved (Stephanie Hughes), seconded (Lorna Doone Brewer), and passed unanimously that CoMP affirm Suzie Henning and Katie Storo as CoMP co-presidents, Kate Andre & Makaya Judge as Scrip Coordinators, and Celia Anderson as CoMP treasurer for the 2016-2017 school year.

Board of Directors Update

- Thom Caraway has asked to step down from the CoMP board. There are enough members on the board that his position doesn't need to be filled. It was moved (Kate Andre) and seconded (Ivory Coghlan) that Thom Caraway be removed from the roster of CoMP's board of directors. Motion approved.

The co-presidents have requested written reports (in PDF form, please) from committees be submitted the Wednesday prior to the regularly scheduled CoMP board meetings (3rd Tuesday of the month). This gives the steering committee an opportunity to review them at their planning meetings and send them out to all other members of the board. Please send reports to comppresident@spokanepublicmontessori.org. It was asked how parents can add items to the meeting agenda and find information on the meetings, in general. This will likely be through the CoMP website but will have to be confirmed for the next meeting.

Practice Campout: date conflict? – One of the 12 early-release Fridays coincides with the scheduled Practice Campout. This event is a fun opportunity for students to get excited about campout and learn a few preparatory skills for it, to give parents a little "time-off", and to raise money for CoMP all at the same time. Shannon Lawson thinks there isn't a reason to consider the early-release a conflict; in fact participation might be better because parents may need a child-care option for the afternoon. Tentatively talking about a time of 1:45-6. Volunteers will be needed. This was going to be coordinated by the Campout Committee Chair, but since that position isn't filled, the co-presidents are beginning the process.

Treasurer's Report – Celia Anderson

Finance committee meets monthly. This committee in coordination with the treasurer actively monitors CoMP's finances. Each month, the financial report will be sent as a pdf to board members and posted to the CoMP website. A verbal report will be given quarterly and/or after major fundraising events to the CoMP board of directors.

CoMP website

Stephanie Hughes, CoMP's website coordinator, did a tremendous amount of work recently recovering CoMP's website. She is always looking for content to keep it fresh and up-to-date. If you

have a particularly great photo of your child at school or in a Montessori-related activity, send it to her. She will also post subcommittee meetings to the website. Committee chairs send the dates to her. Send SPM- and CoMP-related content to, at sumoman@comcast.net

Auction – Randi Madison

- Save-the-date: February 25th for the auction. The theme this year will be “S.T.E.A.M.punk” (science technology engineering art math). It will be a two-part event with the first part being kid/family-friendly and the evening dinner event being a more customary auction. A student-designed and modeled “steampunk” fashion show will be a highlight of the event(s).
- Goals for this year
 - Decrease ticket cost in order to increase participation
 - Increase communication. Include teacher liaisons in auction meetings and/or invite Teacher Support and Liaison Committee chair, Barb Scriven. Seek student input for auction.
 - Increase partnerships with the wider Spokane community. Seeking 6 sponsors at \geq \$500 level. Talking with a local tech company and an online marketing group to get the ball rolling.
 - Decrease the burden on teachers for auction items by supplementing with community support. The auction chair (Randi Madison) will need to meet with Shannon Lawson. Shannon reports that CoMP needs to be in compliance with state law (reports that teachers cannot be involved directly in fund-raising efforts).
 - 30-40 volunteers are needed to work on the auction. This is critical to prevent burnout for the auction committee and chair. Previous auctions have provided 25-30% of CoMP’s budget.

Accreditation

Shannon Lawson has completed the paperwork to apply for the consultant’s visit. March 1-8, 2017 are the dates assigned to SPM. The consultant will want to meet with CoMP.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next CoMP meeting is October 18th at 3:15

Upcoming Events:

1. October 4th – Coffee Connection
2. October 15th – Harvest Festival
3. October 18th – CoMP board meeting