

*****ATTENTION PARENTS*****

There are many open Family/Parent Council Leadership and Coordinator Positions open for the next school year. Family/Parent Council Chair, Vice Chair/s, Secretary, Parent Coordinators for classrooms, Committee Chairs (Events Committee, Traffic Committee, Student Safety Patrol Coordinator, Fundraising Committee, Grants Coordinator, Parent Enrichment Coordinator / Committee, Newsletter Coordinator, Garden & Grounds Committee, Volunteer Coordinator). Please review the attached link to the Family/Parent Council Structure for more detailed information on what commitment and expectations of each position includes.

Expression of interest - All interested applicants should send an email to sjones@wasatchwaldorf.org by April 15th with the following information:

Name

Children attending school grade(s) in the 2017-18 school year

Identify role(s) interested in for the 2017-18 school year

Include description of availability days, hours and time per month able to commit to role.

Family/Parent Council Meeting Minutes for 3/28/2017

Meeting Called to order by Chair Sherry Jones at 7:03pm

Introductions of attending Council Members and Parents were made

A BIG THANK you to all who have volunteered in Formal Leadership Roles this years. Without our Volunteers the rapid growth and development of our school and our community could not have occurred. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Sherry began discussion on new Council Structure:

Introductions of proposed new structure and clarified roles and expectations of council members: Family/Parent Council Chair, Vice Chair/s, Secretary, Grade Level Coordinators, Parent Coordinators for classrooms, Committee Chairs (Events Committee, Traffic Committee, Student Safety Patrol Coordinator, Fundraising Committee, Grants Coordinator, Parent Enrichment Coordinator / Committee, Newsletter Coordinator, Garden & Grounds Committee, Volunteer Coordinator). School administration will be the final appointment of new family council members. Sherry is coordinating and grouping applicants.

Emphasis on Parent Coordinator Roles as members of the council and responsible for attending meetings and working with Vice Chair/s on facilitating, gathering and effective communication between parents, teachers and administration.

Emphasis on two new roles: Newsletter Coordinator and Parent Enrichment Coordinator.

Newsletter Coordinator-Responsible for gathering information, compiling information and working with School Administrator in charge of School Newsletter in publishing information.

Parent Enrichment Coordinator-Weekly time commitment, on-site, to work on welcoming new parents, assisting faculty and instructors in advertising, coordinating and managing outreach and educational events (workshops, Waldorf Conferences, ect).

Parent brought up a concern about the time of meetings. Meetings are to be held on the First, Friday of each month from 8:45 to 10:45am. Concerns where that this would eliminate working parents from attending and participating. Sherry explained that throughout the year meeting times have been surveyed and there has been no consistent time in which a mass attendance was possible.

Discussion surrounding Committee expectations started. Emphasis on committee's ability to influence changes and decision making. Concerns from parents should be addressed via the Family Council email address familycouncil@wasatchwaldorf.org so the council can assess and connect concern to appropriate committee or leadership member.

Discussion of Expression of Interest in these positions discussed. Interested Parents or Family Members should send an email to sjones@wasatchwaldorf.org by April 15th with the following

information:

Name

Children attending school grade(s) in the 2017-18 school year

Identify role(s) interested in for the 2017-18 school year

Include description of availability days, hours and time per month able to commit to role.

Parent brought up concern regarding Concerns section. Sherry clarified that concerns are addressed and managed through the Council via the appropriate committee. Emphasized utilization of email address for those parents who wish to have some anonymity:

familycouncil@wasatchwaldorf.org. Emphasized landing space for concerns is the Council Email.

Parent brought up concern regarding facilitation of concerns; expressed seeing a structure similar to community café model. Emily expressed structure of current Family Council is similar; however not mature at this stage of development and implementation to be completely viewed as same method. What is needed is more parent engagement in the processes that are currently in place and the need for the community to become comfortable in engaging in the processes.

Discussion began describing the Waldorf structure and process regarding Family Council and how to engage parents in utilizing the structure and process so they know how they have a voice and how their concerns can be addressed.

Discussion began regarding communications. Parent brought up concern surrounding Facebook posting/notification of Kindergarten being privatized. Emily stated that once information is finalized and accurate; official notifications will come from the school via the administration communication Friday/Weekly Notes or by singular email from her. If parents have questions regarding an event, process or change in structure please contact administration for confirmation. The Facebook page is not an official means of communication.

Family Council and Administration are aware of the need of more streamlined communication and are hoping that the Newsletter/Communication Coordinator will help facilitate this. Parent asked for access to information and meetings via other technology (livestreaming, recording, ect). Sherry confirmed this was a good idea and one of the ways the Newsletter/Communication Coordinator could assist. Emily advised that at this time parent communication via emails are showing a 40% open rate and this could be one reason why information is not known. Parents should be reading communications coming from school.

Parent brought up communication for lost and found items. Has found it very beneficial to post on FB to have items located and returned. In addition another parent stated if a family is looking for something specific; place a note on the lost and found cubby. This is helpful to those who are looking for and through items to get them back to who is missing them.

Emily advised the school is in the process of developing a School App. It will be basic; but tied to

the website so information is accessible on the go.

Parent Coordinator of Ms. Liza class's has created a new student welcome packet; the council and Emily asked her to share this as it might be very helpful in welcoming all new Wasatch parents.

Parent thanked current council and administration for their service this year; asking other parents to stay positive as this is a growing and developing community and time will allow the council and school to mature in the direction of the communities shared vision.

Council suggested that parents who attended promote and emphasize council email address and looking at updates on the web.

Parent asked How the Sage testing would be administered as Wasatch is low tech; they were also concerned about parents who opt out would be jeopardizing funding. Jo confirmed with Emily. Emily's response after the meeting is as follows: **Sage is only available online, so it will be administered on computer to students in grades 3-8 after Spring Break. Parents can opt out if they choose. It does not directly affect school funding if students opt out; however if our numbers are too low, federal funds may be jeopardized, and if students who will perform well all opt out, it will affect the overall school performance.**

Meeting adjourned at 830pm.

cc: Sherry Jones
Emily Merchant
Kara Salisbury
Brooke Priest
Meladee Kirton
Jessica McKay