

## **PMCH Board BOARD OF TRUSTEES Meeting | DEC. 10, 2024**

5:30 - 7PM EST. Location: Primary Elementary classroom and Virtual (Zoom)

In attendance: VIRTUAL: Miranda, Jessi, Angie, Anna, Nicky; IN PERSON: Chelsea, Russell, Shiloh,

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### IMPORTANT NOTES REGARDING RECORD TAKING FOR 12/10/24:

- *THE MEETING START TIME WAS 5:30PM. SECRETARY ARRIVED TO MEETING AT 5:43PM. THE MEETING WAS IN SESSION UPON ARRIVAL. THE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION OPEN WAS YCC2 OPENING TIMELINE.*
- *SECRETARY LEFT THE MEETING AT 6:30PM.*
- *THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:55PM EST.*

Meeting called to order

Meeting agenda approved

Approve previous meeting minutes

### **5:43PM - YCC2 UPDATES, GRANTS, PROJECT TRACKING**

Discussion about Montessori curriculum in YCC2 classroom, classroom opening timeline and purchasing requirements for YCC2

- Ali and Angie are writing the hiring requisite for the new YCC2 lead (teacher).
- The hiring requisite will be posted to Indeed by 12/20 or sooner. We currently have a Free Indeed account but there is the option to use a Paid account. BOT finance and Admin will determine if Indeed Paid will be activated for this listing.
- Nicky will be setting the hiring requisite live. The hiring requisite will strongly encourage Montessori experience, but Montessori background is not required
- Resumes will be reviewed by PMCH President between 12/20 and 1/10.
- The goal is to start YCC2 enrollment the first week of February

### **YCC2 CURRICULUM / MATERIALS:**

- New materials for YCC2 are not in the queue for purchase until the new Lead begins. The new Lead will have ownership over the classroom and curriculum.

- YCC2 curriculum will largely be an extension of the curriculum being taught in the YCC classroom currently.
- \$17,000 in grant money has been awarded collectively from the FREY FOUNDATION and the PETOSKEY / HARBOR SPRINGS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (see *FINANCE* updates below). This money will be used to purchase materials needed for YCC2 classroom.
  - The goal of the YCC2 classroom is to create an “in between” space for 2.5 - 3.5 year old children who have advanced beyond the curriculum of YCC but may not be ready for Primary yet.
  - Working with the new-hire YCC2 lead, Ali and Morgan will decide what materials we need to purchase for YCC2 versus what we already have available in-house

#### YCC2 ENROLLMENT:

- There are currently 5-6 students in YCC (upper deck) that can be moved down to YCC2 when the new classroom is ready (Goal: mid-January).
- We have openings for four (4) new children to enroll in YCC2 spots.

#### YCC2 RENOVATIONS:

- YCC2 bathroom construction will be pushed to the end of summer.
  - This bathroom is not a licensure requirement as long as YCC2 classroom enrollment stays below 15.
  - PMCH BOT did get one quote for bathroom renovation but the cost exceeded allowable budget. The BOT will continue to seek additional quotes for the job in hopes of completing the project in Q3 2025.

#### **6:01pm - PRIMARY CLASSROOM – KD ENROLLMENT DISCUSSION**

- PMCH BOT President moves to table the conversation, stating that we’ve already exhausted discussion of elementary enrollment and GSRP classroom size limitations (max 20 students) does not make Kindergarten enrollment a priority for 2025.
  - With GSRP program active, the Primary classroom can only hold a max of 20 children in the classroom.
- The BOT is split on whether parents of currently enrolled four-year-old children have been adequately educated about the benefits of Montessori Kindergarten. Several members of the BOT believe the topic has been thoroughly exhausted, that parents are informed/educated about their options and, accordingly, that it is not a good use of BOT time to have cyclical conversations about Kindergarten enrollment without completing a feasibility study to understand whether parents are interested in paying tuition for

age-five-plus education they could otherwise get for free in the Public sector.

- Miranda mentioned Harbor Springs Young Fives program as a competitor program that will further inhibit our chances of enrolling KD students.
  - Angie says she believes that parents are adequately educated about their options for Kindergarten.
  - Nicky believes the conversation about Kindergarten enrollment is a thoroughly exhausted “rabbit hole” topic that does not merit further agenda time.
  - Concern about Kindergarten turnover and retention was voiced; specifically whether Kindergarten-age children will enroll and leave in Q4 (Oct - Dec)
  - Chelsea mentioned that she feels strongly that parents are *not* being properly educated regarding Montessori as an option for Kindergarten in light of Upper Elementary being closed.
- Chelsea, MaryJo and Russell would like to implement a plan to educate parents of four year olds so they understand the options
    - The difference between Montessori Kindergarten curriculum and Young Fives
      - Emphasis on “sensitive periods” of learning aka Special Learning Windows, which differ for each child and are especially important during the first five developmental years.
      - Ability for children to go further with child-lead instruction during Sensitive Periods. Russell mentioned the possibility for children to be introduced to division in KD as an example.
    - What transition from Montessori to Public looks like
      - Option: Montessori Kindergarten at 5 to Public Kindergarten at age 6
      - Option: Montessori Kindergarten at 5 or 6 to Public First Grade
- The BOT agrees a quick “survey” can be handed out to parents to give the BOT a better understanding for how many currently-enrolled parents are interested in learning more about the possibility of Montessori kindergarten for their children in 2025 or 2026.
  - While the room is split in regards to whether discussion of 4-year old retention and KD growth should be a continued topic of conversation or a 2025 priority, the room collectively agrees that every parent can make their own decisions regarding where their child will attend school for Kindergarten and the BOT will not discourage any parent from signing their child up for a year-three Primary education that includes Kindergarten.
  - BOT leaders feel 3 and 4-year-old recruitment needs to be the primary focus at this time due to the school's financial insecurity, and 4-year-old retention can be taken on as a “passion project” for any individuals interested in moving that initiative forward. The topic of KD retention will be reassessed in April 2025.
  - Angie is going to continue her effort to move the Feasibility Study forward so that we can continue to understand whether parents are interested in paying private school tuition in Emmet County for grades where there are publicly-funded alternatives.

## FINANCIAL REPORTING

#### **5:45pm - GRANT INCOME STATUS UPDATE**

1. PETOSKEY / HARBOR SPRINGS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: \$12,000 awarded in December 2024.
2. FREY FOUNDATION: \$5,000 awarded in December 2024.
3. GSRP New Program start-up grant: \$25,000 awarded November 2024
4. FRANCIS R. DEWING FOUNDATION - PENDING
5. GREAT LAKES ENERGY PEOPLE'S FUND - *Declined to fund*

**PMCH will know by the beginning of December 2024 which grants are going to get paid into us.**

#### **ADMINISTRATION UPDATES**

##### **Enrollment Updates:**

CURRENT PRIMARY ENROLLMENT: 14 children in Primary currently - We expect to fill an additional 3 spots with new children in Q4 or early Q1

**6:55 pm – Meeting adjourned**