

Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School Governance Board Newsletter

Volume III, Issue 6 - 2015-2016

Become a Member of the Governance Board Parent Representative Nominations Needed



The Governance Board parent representative election is coming up!

Each year, CVMCS parents elect one representative to serve on the Governance Board for a term of three years. The Governance

Board is made up of the principal, CVMCS teachers, parents, community volunteers, and a member of the school board. The Board meets monthly, typically on the first Monday of the month, from 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Our charter contract with the school board gives some of the responsibilities of running the school to the Governance Board. For example,

our Governance Board:

- Oversees the creation of a budget for the school
- Creates and implements school policies
- Monitors all hires
- Oversees expenditures
- Monitors contracts
- Provides feedback on principal performance to the district

Governance Board members each serve on at least one committee. Committees include the Executive Committee, Board Development Committee, Communications Committee, Enrollment and Diversity Committee, Montessori Identity

Committee, Research Committee, and Resource Committee. Committees generally meet on a monthly basis and committee work may be ongoing throughout the month.

Service on the Governance Board is a stimulating and meaningful way to contribute to our school and a fun way to connect with others. If you are interested in running for the Parent Representative position, please fill out the attached nomination form and return it to the school. You may also nominate another parent for the position, who the Governance Board will contact to gauge their interest.

If you have any questions about Governance Board service or the election, please contact Elizabeth Harder at 845-337-8751 or liz@entropy.cc. We welcome your nominations and inquiries.

Another Way to Get Involved: Governance Board Committees

Service on a Governance Board committee is a great way to get involved, and you do not need to be a member of the Governance Board to participate.

While the projects that the committees undertake vary depending on the needs and priorities of the school, here is a general idea of the duties and responsibilities of each committee:

The **Communications Committee** facilitates communication between the Governance Board and parents, staff, school board, and the greater

community. This committee publishes the Governance Board newsletter, organizes forum nights and other events, and supports the Partnership Coordinator as needed.

The **Enrollment and Diversity Committee** was created with the goal of increasing the racial/ethnic and socio-economic diversity of our school. Recent activities include creating a Diversity Plan, a Diversity Policy and doing door-to-door outreach in the neighborhood surrounding CVMCS.

The **Research and Evaluation Committee** is responsible for evaluating the satisfaction and

effectiveness of the school program from the perspective of staff, students, former students, parents, and the Governance Board. This committee conducts surveys, including the 6th grade survey and the principal evaluation.

The **Resource Committee** is responsible for overseeing certain financial aspects of the school.

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please contact Governance Board President Elizabeth Harder at liz@entropy.cc.

March Happenings

Here are some of the special events that took place this month



Ms. Caroline Irgens started work as an Associate II in Ms. Melissa and Ms. Courtney's Children's House class, replacing Ms. Amy Daw, who is now the school secretary.



Service and agility dogs visited the library. Dogs Ellie, Yoda, and Spud were accompanied by their trainers Ms. Jane Lindblad and Ms. Ayla Schaefer.



Ms. Mary Luer visited the three Children's House classrooms with her three-week-old alpine goats Franny and Frankie. Children even got to take home a bar of fragrant goat milk soap!



E1 children in Ms. Leslie's class produced "Reader's Theater" for friends and family.



(Above and left) E2 students snowshoed and enjoyed lunch on a beautiful winter day at the Ice Age Trail.

The next meeting of the CVMCS Governance Board is Monday, **April 4, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.** in CVMCS library. It is an open meeting and the public is invited to attend. The agenda for the meeting will be available at the school in advance of the meeting.

"One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child."

-Maria Montessori

Board Meeting Highlights

At the March 2016 meeting of the Governance Board:

- Listened to a presentation by Mr. Kurt regarding the E2 math program
- Reviewed CVMCS's articles and bylaws
- Discussed the online admission process
- Reviewed building goals and results of last spring's Badger testing