

Hillcrest Board

June 16, 2020

Called to Order- 5:32pm

- Introductions-Christina, Kimberly, Ann Marit, Michael Teo, Christy Cincotta, Monica French, Kate Demarest, Reene Cooper, Laura Norton-Cruz, Catherine Sullivan, Laura, Shina, Micheal Ebell, Heather Stenson, Alison Cullin, Alonna Brorson, (30 participants)
- Approval of Agenda – Motion: Monica Second:
- Approval of Minutes – move to next month
- Director's Report: Christina
  - COVID-19 Mitigation Plan- updates (continuously)
    - Highlights
      - PPE
        - Face masks- each staff needs at least 4 a month; so 120 for the center a month- with washing they are wearing down quickly.
        - Button up shirts or smocks for fall- looking at Value Village (Goodwill has excellent practices)
        - Symptoms for Exclusion update- we had students and staff showing symptoms. Had a meeting with Muni. So if students are teething with a runny nose, slight fever and fussy- these are excludable symptoms
        - [AK Symptoms](#)
      - Physical contact between staff/child and child/child- we will have physical contact.
      - From the Sunday E-mail- we are still awaiting the test results- we will require a second negative test results. It takes about 24 hours to get the request for testing and up to seven days for the results. It is very realistic to be out for two weeks when we are looking at possible exclusion. Catherine shared a resource of Providence for a Teladoc portal (\$50 without insurance)- Katie will send a flyer for Providence health resources.
      - If a staff does have a positive test- we will then be looking at working with the public health nurse to contact all the close contacts. We will have the attendance records ready to be shared.
      - If there are major updates to the policy will they be shared in a timely manner. The muni guidance is in process- it was started in a conference call and are presently working on a written guidance and our policy will be updated. If a student displays symptoms Mr. Dhane will be monitoring those students closely.
    - Enrollment:
      - Half enrollment for June

- Will need to bill all families who are wanting to return beginning in July to hold spaces- we may look at a deposit for holding spots for students that want to hold a spot but are not currently attending. Christina will be sending out July invoices. This is an on-going process as funding evolves.

○ Staffing:

- Welcome
  - Ms. Kimberly, Assistant Director
  - Mr. Dhane, Health and Safety Supervisor
  - Ms. Skylar, Cook to start in July
- Retirement
  - Ms. Renae celebrated a Birthday on the 10th and is looking to retire this summer. In August she will have been with Hillcrest for 24 years- please e-mail ideas to Monica or Kimberly

• **BOARD**

○ Finance:

- We will be ending this fiscal year with a positive balance but will not know how much until we see how the PPP forgiveness goes. The PPP guidelines have repeatedly changed so I am frustrated that we did not request the full amount that was available to us (per banks directions) now that they have expanded allowable expenses and the time-frame to claim them. I am spending the funds to best ensure full-forgiveness so we can use savings to cover the next fiscal year's deficit.
- It does look like it will be easier to spend the money- the time allocated to spend the money has been expanded- there are two different metrics with two different formulas to spend in it. We are going by the strict actions to have this amount forgiven and not have to pay back the money. Hillcrest tries to value and respect staff and additional funding is needed to keep Hillcrest doors open.
- Currently, the budget is showing a 15% reduction (\$145,000) in projected tuition income for the next fiscal year. – its \$105,000 after double checking the numbers
- Muni Cares Funding- Thank you for the support and replies to help give a realistic picture of Hillcrest- we got pushback because of our tuition costs that we don't need help- we have educated on the high cost of care for quality we deliver at Hillcrest. The muni wants the funding to go to centers that accept childcare assistance (which we do) and spending it on staffing and environment- they will also disperse the money over time- not all in July- \$30 million is a rough amount for childcare in the muni- and they need to watch how it is available for centers and family home providers. In Anchorage for providers that charge amounts similar to Hillcrest are not private or non-profit. They are ready to

sit in committee to figure it out. Thread has further worked out their suggestions. We are advocating for them to plan out and be intentional about a plan so it does not become like the state. Laura will communicate with Christina about the timeline and guidance for letters. We need to advocate on three levels- first forum put together-

Address the issues that were already in place before Covid-19 and we need to address the needs that are present because of Covid-19. Christina will share and support advocacy as much as possible. Anyone can help with these forums. Please send letters to the Muni Assembly and/or see Laura.

- AK "Capacity Building" fund- it was from two months ago- it incentives closing- they rewrote it and now states until funding runs out- Rumors are that there will be an announcement tomorrow (6/17).

○ **Facilities:**

- **GOAL:** Complete all deferred maintenance by 2022
  - **Preschool Construction Update**
    - Cubbies being built
  - **Roof**
    - Roof replaced in July with last of capital funds
  - **Building**
    - Handrails are up, doors will be done as we get to them
    - One of the upstairs toilets has leaked a little more extensive repair
  - **Play Yard Upgrade**
    - The goal is to improve the quality of the outdoor classroom experience, improving functionality and maintenance, as we move to as much time as possible outside
      - Creating connecting circular trike paths through all play yards (increase movement, defines different spaces, minimizes wear on grass)- **funded with a quality grant from thread**
      - Improving the fall surface of the PS climbing equipment (pea gravel vs wood chips)- **not doing that due to cost**
      - Expanding the soil that surrounds the Toddler climber- **done**
      - Moving both PS and Toddler sandboxes to improve yard function- need to order sand, and move other sand
      - Installing grass (**SOD donation**)-

- **With a \$1700 health and wellness grant from Thread we are making a wheeled track on the playground.**
- **We do need help with the sod donation and cutting and moving it to Hillcrest**
- Other possible projects
  - Spruce Bark Beetle Spray and dead tree removal- **done**
  - Building Painting- **not going to do whole thing but need to address South-east brown side**
  - **Has some damage and will need to address this- the siding we currently have is not cheap or available to buy locally in town.**
  - Shed upgrade- **will move them**
  - Playhouse construction (similar to Frontier Park, next to Park Strip)- **future dreams**
- **New Business:**
  - Community Comments: Laura- the guy the who backed into the building- nothing else stolen- the police came and spoke to Christina- may have been involved in that.
  - July is when we need commitments for enrollment spots.
    - Give a sense of capacity for the classrooms- will this be an issue for families that want to wait a bit longer- in July we will be subsidized by Covid-19 programs for tuition and payroll- so we will need to know so that we can plan and budget for these unknown times- staffing for students that can not mix classrooms and when staff are mandated to be out. If we know what our families are needing for care or funding needs. The PPE program was a one-size for all and was to get unemployment numbers lower- it may not be the best for the business. They are currently updating and flushing out the details for forgiveness for these funds.
    - We also want to support our current needs for families and what is the best for our center. We will be sending invoices out to one secure funding amounts from our families and to communicate our needs for care of students. There are families contacting for spots. With some centers are in a bind finically that may not be able to stay open with a funding bail out- we do want to have an idea of the funding that we may be able to have from current families and will do our best to accommodate current families and move forward.

Aleesha brought up about the current race and equity in the world. Christina and Sam had wanted to have some parent talks about race and age developmentally appropriate lessons but then Covid-19 came along. Our staff are supporting themselves and family out of country. It is something we have talked about, how we are raising our staff. Christina does have resources- balancing all the covid-19, her family struggles and balancing work it has been delayed in sharing of these. It was suggested to share

resources online through Facebook, ect... The research shows that you have to intentionally teach race and equity to young children or they learn from their families. We do want to provide intentional and thoughtful values and developmentally appropriate lessons. Laura will help get these posted for Hillcrest families.

Adjournment at 6:43pm .

Laura about the tuition for September- try to comeback sooner- we need to look at the whole picture and then see how that will work.