

Hillcrest Children's Center Board Meeting April 19, 2023

Called to Order

- Introductions: Christina EO; Liz O'Brien; Joanna Jardin; Mitchell Cullom; Brian C.; Serena Jones; Nora Matell; Jessica Simonsen; Jim; Kate Demarest; Heather; Brandi Zeman; Katrina and Cam Eggers
- Approval of Agenda
 - Volunteer for timekeeper
- Approval of Minutes (can be found on our website): March; Brandi motioned; Nora seconded
- Director's Report: Christina
 - **Enrollment:**
 - Openings: none
 - Future openings:
 - As we adjust our classrooms to better maximize space we will have openings for PreK. Moving Salmons to a PreK classroom of 20, and Polar Bears to a Preschool classroom of 17 3-year-olds will allow us to increase enrollment by 5 students.
 - Rate increases may lead to more openings if current families can not afford the new cost of care.
 - Muni recalculated square footage per classroom and adjusted classroom capacities, allowing us to adjust size
 - 3:17/18; 4:20 (and highschoolers afterschool as needed)
 - Polar bear increase of 5 kids would result in \$70k
 - Brown bear: 12 kids; polar bear 17 kids; slippery salmon 20 kids
 - Plan is to expand opportunities for polar bear older kids to get outside with preschoolers if needed; logistics will be implemented this summer to work out the kinks
 - **Staffing:**
 - Staffing Changes:
 - Welcomed Ms Shameka and Ms Makenzie to the Brown and Polar Bears classroom
 - Christina was awarded the Sabbatical Grant from the Rasmuson. She will be out from October 1-December 31
 - Current Staffing: (Lead Teacher is Bold: Teachers and Assistants may change as needed)
 - Classroom:
 - Lil Lynx: Sera
 - Baby Belugas (Infant): **Mua**, RaeAnn, Marie
 - Marmot: **Yovanie**, Tina, Yasmin, CJ(PT), Yelvi (PT)
 - Brown Bear: **Tyler Joe**, Zoey, Shamka,
 - Polar Bears: **Yvonne**, Jim, Makenzie

- Slippery Salmons: **Mercedes**, Tyler, Lorrene (PT), Gabe, Hannah
- School-Age: **Tyler, Gabe**
- Cook: Skylar
- Office: Christina, Cheryl
- Staff Coach/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant: Sam
- **Classroom Updates:**
 - The summer 2023 School-Age Program is happening with Tyler and Gabe
 - **May have someone else to help with the school-age program**

Board Committees

- **Finance:**
 - Capital Campaign: start planning for the fall campaign in May/June
 - COVID Funding
 - All stabilization funds have been received
 - We expect to hear by June 30th if we were awarded an Improve grant of up to \$50,000 to upgrade our fire alarm system
 - Budget:
 - Expense Changes
 - Board Retreat focused on: We are still finding that we are needing to do an additional 10% wage increase (over the increase in December) to get new employees to join. Additionally, our current staff is increasingly struggling to afford housing, transportation, food, and medical costs.
 - Program costs (not including the Van) are looking to end this year at a 10% increase than budgeted. This is due to the increased costs of food and consumables. For example, Costco has added a 5.5% “handling” fee for our orders.
 - A family survey has gone out to get family feedback to guide the Boards plan to handle the significant budget profile
- **Facilities:**
 - GOAL: Complete all deferred maintenance by 2022
 - **Items Left:** Fire Alarm System, Brown Building Paint/Siding
 - Fire Alarm System: obtaining quotes
 - Accel (Jay/Roy) \$78,000
 - GMW (Todd) didn't submit
 - Yukon (Larson) didn't submit
 - Integrity (Jerry) didn't submit
 - Fierce Fire: working on it
 - Specialized Sprinkling: working on it
 - Play yard planning: on hold, as we focus on financials
 - Update on the brown building wall

- TCM coming out with estimate, encouraged talking to insurance

New Business:

- **Current Board**
 - President: Jessica Simonsen
 - Vice President: Kate Demarest
 - Secretary: Liz O'Brien
 - Treasurer: Brandi Zeman
 - Member At Large (MAL): Nora Matell
 - MAL: Mike Ebell
 - MAL: Ross Goble
- **Closures**
 - May 26 Inservice
 - May 29 Holiday
 - July 4 Holiday
 - **September 29 (change from 9/1 approved Feb. Board Meeting)**
 - Sept 4 Holiday
 - October 18 Inservice
 - November 11 Inservice
 - November 23/24 Holiday
 - December 25 Holiday
- Spring/Summer Events
 - **Board: State of Hillcrest Wednesday, May 3rd at 5:30 food and child care provided**

Community Comments:

- Nora mentioned the need to make a determination on the van
 - Once we get feedback from the parent survey and budget information we will make a decision – will be brought up at the May meeting
- GHCC and Anchorage Parks Assn – “Train Park” clean-up work party week of August 14th
- Cam – additional funding survey question, what have we pursued already?
 - We apply for majority of grants and will continue to monitor – anyone with connection to Prop 14 we need insight on use of marijuana tax for pre-k/childcare
 - Tier 1 w/ Rasmuson – possibly tier 2 in future
 - Fall – grant/financing for playground equipment from GameTime
 - Budget amendments – contacting legislature to add money to childcare
- Childcare task force – Christina summarized Executive Order
 - Application open for spots on the Board

Closed @ 6:13

Close to Executive Session

- Discussed creating a list of what we have applied for in terms of grants

Closed @ 6:32