

Parent Council Notes
February 2nd 2017
6-7:15pm



Attendance: Parents, Amber Fitzgerald, Brenda Hughes, Bradley Hughes, Melissa Wischerath; Parent Council Chair, Kathryn Thier; Jackie Brown, staff representative; Becky Lamoureux, Director

Parent council chair election- Kathryn Thier was unanimously voted for as our new parent council chair. She will help plan our quarterly agenda, facilitate meetings, help communicate topics, questions, suggestions and concerns between parents the director and the council. Thank you to Kathryn for volunteering for this important role. Please let her know if you have topics for the council.

Staff Representative up date

Conferences for all ages offered. During spring term each age group will be e-mailing parents to sign up for parent teacher conferences. This is a great time for parents to share information they would like the teachers to be aware of and teachers will share about classroom routines and about your child's classroom experiences. This is a great time for teachers and parents to share information to assure that we are working as a team for each child.

Director's news

Budget process and update- Each year our budget is submitted to the EMU student board for approval. Following this board's approval they present it to the ASUO senate for approval. Already this year the EMU student board has approved the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018. They will present this budget to the ASUO senate on February 11th. This year there were questions from senators about the reliance of Moss Street on the incidental fee.

Recent events at Moss Street-We discussed the impact of recent events on the children, staff and parents. Children throughout the program have shown signs of recognition of the events. The responses vary and have been age appropriate. This is a great opportunity for teachers and parents to work together to make sure the children feel safe and respected.

Volunteer and parent volunteer background checks- Moss Street has changed the process for parent and volunteer background checks. Volunteers use to do their background check through the Early Learning Division, Division of Childcare. The ELD now requires finger printing for all background checks and have increased their fees from \$3 – to over \$50 and eventually, nearly \$80. Volunteers and parents are not required to have a back ground check and this new fee is cost prohibited. No volunteers are alone with children at Moss Street. Volunteers will now complete the UO Human Resource background check or the UO College of Education background check requirements. Both of these checks are thorough.

Rate increases starting in July- Because of rising costs and our commitment to maintaining high quality services, we have proposed rate increases for UO student families of 1%, and for non-student families of 3%, starting June 26, 2017. Parents at the meeting voiced an understanding and ideas for

assuring that student representatives and administrators recognize the importance of Moss Street towards the UO stated goals, assuring diversity and supporting nontraditional students.

Parent topics

Food- We talked about USDA rules and Moss Street procedures for serving food. Moss Street is dedicated to our USDA food program and the procedures required. For example, we are obligated to serve all required food components at the same time. We cannot withhold certain foods if a child is preferring one over another. If children serve themselves they can take what they want and as much as they want. If children are served pre plated food they must be served the required portion of each food item for their age. They can request more of any of the food items if we have more.

Riot responses-We ran out of time to address the emergency preparedness of Moss Street for events like campus riots or activism. Moss Street is planned for by the UO risk emergency services departments and would be instructed for safety procedures in the event of a campus threat. We are lucky to be located near the UO police department who are aware of our special population. We are required to practice fire drills monthly and other emergency drills 6 times a year. We have an emergency plan document that both of these emergency offices also have. Parent contact information is shared monthly with the UO emergency office so that parents can be contacted by them if necessary.

Newsletters and white boards-Some parents requested class newsletters and white boards where class daily info can be shared with parents. The desired information would be substitute teacher names, the staff in the room at the time, outings like buggy rides etc. This information will be shared with teachers.