**Moss Street Children’s Center**  
**Parent Council Meeting**  
**November 19, 2015**  
**6-7:15**

**Notes**

**In attendance:**  
Parents; Marina Tsylna, Amber and Josh Fitzgerald, Kristi Racer, Michael and Kathryn Thier, Blake and Jackie Helm, Denielle Perry  
Parent Council Chair; Jeffrey Garman  
Staff; Mary McAllister  
Director; Becky Lamoureux.

**Introductions and Questions that parents hoped would be answered during the meeting.**

**Transitions for children:** Our certification requirements dictate at what ages we move children from one classroom to another. We have some leeway to match available spaces, natural term transitions and most importantly child development with the timing of these transitions. We like to have children in the same class with the same peers and teachers to maintain consistency. When a child is ready developmentally and chronologically, and the space exits we let parents know our plan. At this time we start having the child visit the older classroom with familiar staff. The last part of the puzzle is usually the issue of space in the next classroom because this information is often not available until parents apply for care, each term.

**Parent suggestions:** Please share transition information with parents as soon as it is even a possibility.
**Emergency drills and procedures:** At Moss Street we are required to do a fire drill each month. We alternate the day and time of these drills to allow different staff and children to be familiar with the procedures. Fire and Life Safety (a group of UO Environmental Health & Safety) staff is present and they give us recommendations and feedback after each drill. It is our intent to let parents know via e-mail the day of the drill that it occurred. We do these drills with the alarms. We are also required to practice other emergency drills 6 times a year. These drills include lock downs, power outages and earthquake. The University Risk Enterprises, UO Fire & Safety, and UO Police Dept. review best practice for these drills regularly.

**Parent suggestion:** Please send a reminder out about signing-up for UO alerts.

**Information about illness in the building:** Moss Street tracks illness throughout the building on an ongoing basis so we can identify and track illness and to share information with parents. While we can’t inform you about all the illnesses that are reported to us because of the size of the Moss Street community (150 student staff and volunteers, 30 professional staff, 300 parents, 200 children), we do our best to let you know about illnesses in the classrooms. We will always post illnesses that more than one child has been diagnosed with in your child’s classroom and in most cases we will send this information in an e-mail as well. Teachers will also let you know if they are seeing a lot of the same symptoms in the classroom.

**Parent suggestions:** Please send e-mails with illness reports. Include illness reports in the news letters. Share information more frequently.

**Immunizations for children and staff:** Moss Street follows the state requirements that all children enrolled should be fully immunized (young babies must have the first of each series). There is no longer a religious exemption. Non-medical exemptions require a consultation with a Dr., or the completion of an on-line module and the completion of the form indicating completion. We exclude all unimmunized children on and after the state exclusion date in February. We encourage all staff to be fully immunized and we make this request during their hiring process and during our orientation. We cannot require immunizations for staff.

**Parent suggestions:** Could we have an immunization clinic at Moss Street with the help of the UO Health Center staff? Can students be told during interviews that immunizations are recommended?

**Space availability:** We are sorry to say that we are not funded nor have capacity to serve all of the children that apply for care. Nor are we able to offer care in all 9 classrooms after 3pm because of the limits of our funding and qualified staff.

**Parent suggestions:** The GTF union is working on advocating for additional child care and child care funding on campus.
Moss Street Updates

**Residential Hall Construction Update:** Becky shared pictures and information about the residential hall that will begin construction in March.

**Parent suggestions:** Advocate for replacement and long term planning to replace the pool of available, affordable graduate student family housing in the neighborhood.

**Parent Survey Results and Impact:** The parent survey completed last spring helped staff identify a goal to reach out to parents to be involved in the creation and implementation of their child’s classroom curriculum. Also, staff has made goals to invite and include the values, beliefs and culture of each family in the classrooms activities. Staff will be inviting family participation through e-mails, personal requests, events, classroom postings and newsletters.

**Parent Handbooks:** As a staff we are reviewing our parent handbook to clarify, review and assess. Parents can see the handbook online or a piece is included most weeks at the end of the “weekly reminders”.

**How can I know the student staff that work with my child?:** In each classroom the student staff pictures and schedules are posted. Hopefully, as students gain comfort with you, their jobs and the children, they will initiate communication with parents. Please feel free to introduce yourself and get to know them.

**Parent suggestions:** Please consider including a “featured student teacher”, in the classroom newsletters. It would be great to see info about student staff that they would be willing to share with families.