Moss Street Children’s Center
Parent Council Meeting
February 18, 2016
6-7:15p

Notes

Introductions: Becky Lamoureux, Director, Jeffrey Garman, Parent Council Chair, Jackie Brown, Staff Representative, Josh Fitzgerald, Shengnan Lai, Michael Their, Jen Ditmar, Thanh Nguyen.

Director Updates:

Budget Hearing Update: The EMU Board and the ASUO Senate approved the Moss Street Budget. Parents and student staff attended the ASUO hearing and advocated for full funding for Moss Street for fiscal year 2016-2017. Leading up to the approval of the budget, the ASUO Senate had not approved the EMU budget and had asked specific questions regarding four EMU programs including the Moss Street proposed budget, Fees and Supplies sections. They asked for the specific expenses included in these sections and what impact non-funding would have on the program for these categories and what alternate funding had been pursued. Parents discussed this process and suggested working more closely with the ASUO Executive and Senate early in the year. There were also suggestions about collecting and sharing data on the success of those students who work at or receive care at Moss Street. Students shared that they are able to keep up with the graduation rates of their peers because of the service that Moss Street provides.

Residential Hall and Parking Update: Becky shared that the work on the parking lot next door to Moss has begun and should be completed by the third week in March. The Romania lot should be completed the first week of March. The residential hall site is scheduled to be fenced during spring break. After this time, the project will kick into gear with an estimated completion date of September 2017. The parking currently located next to Global Scholars Hall will be off-line until after the construction is
completed. After completion, half of those spaces will again be available. The construction and new residential hall will likely increase traffic and congestion. Those parents present shared concerns about the danger of traffic exiting from the parking lots and through the neighborhood, especially during the athletic events. It was suggested that a mid-block crossing be advocated for and that perhaps the security folks could assist child care folks’ safe crossing during events like they do on Agate. Becky has been advocating for a mid-block cross walk and encourages families to also share their concerns and ideas with Gwen Bolden in Parking and Transportation (gbolden@uoregon.edu).

Parent Input topics:

   **Enrollment Priority Changes:** The Oregon Administrative Rules that have governed enrollment priorities at Moss Street were converted into UO policies along with many other UO OARs when the UO left the OUS system. The Moss Street policies have been ear marked for review and suggested revisions during the next year. The proposed changes are likely to be aimed at assuring that the limited resource of care at Moss Street will be prioritized for students. Likely the enrollment priorities will follow President Schill’s priorities of helping students to graduate on time and to increase access for non-traditional students in order to assure a diverse student body and support the graduate students that are a key to attracting qualified faculty to the UO. More specifically, it is likely that full time, working students will be the top priority for enrollment and those students taking fewer credits or not pursuing a degree may be given a lower priority than other students. Parents did note that the GTFF union has made it a high priority to request additional capacity at Moss Street to assure that Graduate Employees are able to access services, afford them and contribute to the UO academic departments.

   **Utilization of Classrooms for Fall:** Since Fall 2015, Kindergarteners in Lane County started to attend elementary school for full-day classes, same as 1st-5th graders. Previously, some Kinders spent more hours at Moss Street, due to their classes ending mid or late morning—thus arriving at Moss after their shorter time at school. This change leaves us with an additional classroom for use in the morning and maybe into the afternoon for another age group. Each year we assess what age groups have the greatest student demand and try to serve as much of this demand as possible with our classroom configuration. For example, this Fall we had incredible demand for care for children under the age of two and not as much for the 2-3 year old age range. As a
result we offered three baby rooms and just one 2-3 year old room. We will be using this same strategy for room utilization this coming Fall to make sure that we serve as many student families as possible.

Food Costs rolled into tuition: Becky requested feedback about the possibility of having meal costs rolled into the tuition amount instead of tracking meal payments individually and charging for meals after the fact. At Moss Street everyone eats the food provided by Moss Street. This allows us to provide nutritious meals for all the children. By rolling the food cost into tuition, families could better predict their monthly costs and the administrative tasks of tracking each meal served would be reduced. Could we say something to ease the minds of those families worried about discounted meal rates?

Parent Handbook Changes to Mission and Goal Statement: Copies of the updated mission and goals statements were distributed for feedback. The Moss Street staff have spent time together reviewing and updating these statements so that they more closely resemble our goals and mission. These can be found on the Moss Street website under, “Parent Handbook”. [http://pages.uoregon.edu/mscc/handbook/handbook.html](http://pages.uoregon.edu/mscc/handbook/handbook.html)

Parent Issues/Topics:

The children’s input in Moss Street decisions: Parents asked if there were ways for children to give input on important Moss Street topics so that their authentic voices can be heard. There was a suggestion that the front display case could be a place to show how the children are impacting their community at Moss Street. The idea of a recording of the children’s voices could be added to the weekly reminders as a sample of the kind of deliberation and curriculum that occurs in each classroom. Becky and staff talked about some of the ways that children’s opinions and interests are impacting their classrooms and Moss Street. Starting at the youngest ages, staff give children the control of their bodies and rhythms by following their ques through-out the day. The curriculum at Moss Street is based on observations of the children’s interests and development and as a result the activities, classroom environment and routines are a reflection of the interests and opinions of the children. For example, in the preschool classrooms it would not be unusual at circle time for the children to be discussing a
decision that they are making together...from dramatic play area props to future field trips, as well as the rules and responsibilities of each other in the classroom. The oldest group makes decision together in ways that most closely match those you might find in a child council: picking an interest, discussing possibilities, identifying or pursuing resources and reviewing their efforts. It was noted that one of the foundations of the Reggio Emilia philosophy is to display the process of learning in the environment and Moss does this through our classroom displays and newsletters.

Transitions for student families who are graduating: During the discussion of the proposed enrollment changes there was a discussion about those families that are transitioning from students to community and how would changes impact their status. Most services at the UO are discontinued when a student graduates or leaves the UO. Student requests are the highest priority and if there is space left after students are served graduated students will could be offered hours. It was suggested that student families might benefit from consultation during this transition about what is likely available at Moss Street and alternate care options.

Traffic calming during events: See above, Parent recommending that the security and traffic folks that are present during arena events could assist Moss folks across streets during high traffic events.

Tracking and reporting student success as related to employment or services at Moss Street: There was discussion about the value of collecting and reporting the contribution Moss Street makes to the success of students in retention, graduation and student experience.