

Moss Street Children's Center
Parent Council Meeting
1-14-2021
5-6 pm
Notes

Introductions:

Becky Lamoureux, Director; Lori Bond, Assistant Director; Dan Tewksbury, Staff Representative; Parents: Kailey Boice, Hannah Austin, Donghyeok Jang and Elizabeth Allcott St Clair.

Moss Street Updates and Discussions...

Parent feedback about the current services during Covid-19 and what opinions they have regarding:

Hours of operations: Some would prefer earlier hours and others later hours. Some like the current hours more than they anticipated. Some like them just how they are.

Group Size: The parents present did not object to adding a few more children to the groups as safety allows.

Communication with teachers: There were no improvements identified.

Food Program: Parents are pleased with the current food program and shared that they liked knowing that their child had food that they were sure that they liked. They liked hearing from their child about what other children in their classroom are eating. Some like the ability to prioritize organic food for their child that MSCC can not afford to serve.

Student Employees return to MSCC. The parents present shared that they see a high value to having student staff involved at MSCC and yet they do not think that this outweighs their concerns for safety from having additional adults in the classrooms.

Suggestions for ways to build community remotely while we cannot come together for our community events. Parents and staff shared the following ideas:

- Pancake Breakfast for all the children at MSCC (without parents this year)
- Center-wide Collages to create community through shared prompts
- Parent Storytellers on Zoom
- Virtual Fieldtrips
- Center-wide Scavenger Hunts

Introduction of our new child assessment tool AEPS (Assessment, Evaluation and Programming System for Infants and Children).

MSCC is piloting a child assessment tool, starting with those children enrolled in the Preschool Promise program, whose parents give permission. Some staff will begin training this month on the use of this assessment tool. The assessment will be used to evaluate each child's development to allow teachers to set goals with parents and create curriculum to meet the goals of the children in the classroom. This assessment tool is consistent with MSCC philosophy, as it is based on the teacher's observation of the children during their play.

Current Events and Children

The group discussed the role of MSCC and parents, given the current events in our country and world. Staff were looking for input from parents about the role MSCC could play. The group shared that helping children to feel safe at home and school was key to our work in this context.