

**Moss Street Children's Center**  
**Parent Council Meeting**  
**October 4, 2017**  
**6-7:15**

**Attending:** Kathryn Thier, Council Chair; Jackie Brown, Staff Representative to the Council; Becky Lamoureux, Moss Street Director; Amber Fitzgerald; Heidi Rakas, Ira and Naomi Gallagher; Rick and Kylie Post; Meeten Kneisly; Sara Hemmington

**Introductions & role of the council:** From the parent handbook. The Parent Council serves as an advisory body to the Director, on operational topics of the Moss Street Children's Center. Much of this handbook was developed in partnership with the Parent Council. Any parent who wishes, can be an active Parent Council member. One or two staff members are chosen by the classified staff to be members of the council and the council as a whole advises the director on pertinent issues. Any parent with children enrolled at Moss Street may attend. The council meets quarterly while school is in session. Free child care and a meal are provided for all council meetings. We ask, when possible, for parents to sign-up ahead of time to attend so enough staffing and food can be arranged for each meeting. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the front desk several days before a meeting. Together, staff and parents, shall work to guide the programs in the best possible way.

**Director Updates:**

**School age program changes-** Moss Street School age program is designed to serve families with school age children after school, no-school days and during the summer. We serve children in this program ages 5-11 years. The program is designed to be recreational with a strong emphasis on social skills and exploring the natural environment. This year we have gone from 3 classrooms to 2 (K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade). We are able to provide transportation from some elementary schools to Moss Street and the 4j school district provides transport from Edison. Currently, the mentor teacher for this program is on FMLA and Lead Teacher, Jackie Brown is the interim mentor for this program. Long term teacher Dave Winget resigned his position at the end of the summer to pursue his art. Substitute teacher Amanda Dowel is teaching in this program this summer and long term sub, Ginger Latta is subbing in the program and on no-school days.

**Woody's memorial structure-** Last year a student at Moss Street and his father died unexpectedly and we have been planning a memorial structure to

honor them. This structure has been designed and is under construction and we hope to have it completed and installed in the Middles playground before the end of the term. Proceeds from the spring pizza fund raiser were used to purchase the materials for the structure.

**Chair Updates:** The Chair had no updates at this time. She did mention that she is open to receiving questions or concerns from parents that she can bring forward to the council for future meetings.

### **Staff Representative Updates:**

**Moss Street organizational structure/ EMU program-** Moss Street is an EMU program and our budget is approved annually by the EMU student board and forwarded for approval to the ASUO senate. Becky is the Director at Moss Street and she supports the three mentor teachers, Lori, Amber and Mary (currently, Jackie) and Robynn and Arthur in the office and Sigrid in the kitchen. Each Mentor teacher supports a set of classrooms. Lori oversees the middles and preschools; Amber, the littles program and compliance and Mary the school age program. The teachers each support the children and families and a group of 10-15 student staff who work in each cluster.

**Fall staffing over view-** This fall Danijela is the Lead Teacher in the Chickadee room and Julia and Yumiko are Lead teaching staff in the Finch room. In the Robin room, Maddy and Devon are teaching and in Swallows, Sidney and Kathy are the teachers. Jenny and Kristina are teaching in the Quail room and Lauren and Jordan are in the Redwing room. Jackie and Amanda are the school age Lead teachers.

**Communicating with teachers-** Each group of teachers loves to communicate with parents. We know that there is not always time for extended conversations at drop off and pick up times so teachers also can be reached by phone, e-mail and by appointment. Each year teachers will offer conference times during which parents and teachers can meet together with undivided attention.

**Harvest Carnival-** Each fall Moss Street hosts a fall family FUNdraiser. We invite the Moss Street community to the center on Friday October 27<sup>th</sup> for Carnival games, piñatas and costumes. This year the event will run from 5:45-7:45 pm. Parents were invited to volunteer if they would like.

Possible Parent Issues

**Parent Topics:** Each council meeting we make sure to allow for parent topics, questions and concerns. This time we discussed the extensive emergency preparedness of the center and staff, communication with parents about emergencies and lock down procedures. It was noted that staff regularly do drills to prepare for a variety of emergencies. The emergency contact information for each parent is relayed monthly to the UO emergency management. In the event of a lock down at Moss Street no one would be permitted to enter the building, including parents to assure the safety of everyone in the center.