

## **Child Development Laboratory School Collective Parent Group Meeting**

Monday, November 15, 2021 8:00 p.m.

Lead by Sarah McKee, Sheila Williams- Ridge, Marie Lister, Alice Lovejoy, & Anna Salisbury

Notes taken by Anna Salisbury

### **Both the CDC and the Lab School previously had parent groups (CDC - Parent Consultative Committee, Lab School - Parent Association of the Lab School (PALS))**

CDC - Parent Consultative Committee - Had chairs and representatives from each classroom

- Used to channel info from classrooms to families
- Meetings were for educational purposes- i.e. transition to kindergarten
- Support Week of the Young Child, staff appreciation, and other activities

Lab School- Parent Association of the Lab School (PALS)- Hosted events and fundraisers like

- Gym Jam and Spring Soiree
- Presented speakers and topic of interest to families
- Coordinated volunteer opportunities and ideas/suggestions between families and Lab
- School staff

Both organizations were focused on caregiver support and collaboration

Lots of changes last year because of Covid-19

**Jam Board #1:** As we reemerge, how do we come together again as a community? What might that look like? Ideas for events and fundraising?

**Link:**

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1vmlth7z1yH243ayCkiY0srOJPKJucU-1TviQ5BTuqBw/viewer?f=0>

More camping trips suggested

Dance party / Teddy Bear band again

**Jam Board #2:** What areas of support can CDLS offer to families through this new unified parent group? I.e. speakers, access to articles, topics to cover

**Link:**

[https://jamboard.google.com/d/1-e9jeSfikMqhomqj3kyh-rolpogVD0\\_lgzY51RgcZE4/viewer](https://jamboard.google.com/d/1-e9jeSfikMqhomqj3kyh-rolpogVD0_lgzY51RgcZE4/viewer)

### **How can we support our teachers?**

- Ask teachers to develop wishlist
- Sheila mentioned the need for tree stumps at the school right now

### **Neither program is at capacity right**

- Full day program because of COVID and hiring
- Half day program because of COVID and navigating the new space

- Fall 2022 registration for new families is starting now for part-day program
- Full day program enrollment/registration is ongoing year round
- Will increase capacity over time

**There is space in the building for Minneapolis Public Schools Early Childhood Special Education partnership**

- Half day program has 4 specialists that come in regularly (2-3 days/week)- special education, speech, occupational therapy and physical therapy.
- Full day program has 1 specialist coming in right now (speech) on an as needed basis.

**Jam Board #3:** What expertise is there in our community to share?

- This can be anything - all things are helpful. Skills, knowledge, connecting in a meaningful way
- Don't really need to be an "expert" - just how to be involved, i.e. school photos, reading, baking bread

**Link:**

[https://jamboard.google.com/d/14yRJR4fX3gpEf6f\\_3wcs1mt3Evy-u0yDmSPPp0RuaXY/viwer](https://jamboard.google.com/d/14yRJR4fX3gpEf6f_3wcs1mt3Evy-u0yDmSPPp0RuaXY/viwer)

**Shared google form for volunteering-** some possible projects: gardens, restaining playground equipment - please fill out when you get a chance

**Link:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdz9P1heO8vbd1e3En0Tm\\_fZ24rZcL\\_zhUI\\_yTEN92i-fhU7Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdz9P1heO8vbd1e3En0Tm_fZ24rZcL_zhUI_yTEN92i-fhU7Q/viewform)

**Parent Info nights** -Ayuko Boomer (toddler teacher in part day program and parent educator) organizes a lot of the info nights. Please email her if you have ideas or feedback.

**Fundraising-**

- The half day program has a scholarship fund- 20-25% of students get some financial aid from this fund each year. They are still using the funds from 2 years ago because COVID prevented them from hosting fundraisers. Fundraising was done through the Spring Soiree event, which included a silent and live auction. Also Gym Jam, which funded large motor development equipment. Also have had fundraising from a kiln (which is currently missing- it got lost in the move) and partnering with groups like MPLS Crisis Nursery as a donation site for needed items. Also in the past the part day program supported UMN students who are also parents by collecting materials and donating them to those families.
- Full day program works on a sliding scale fee. Not too much fundraising has been done in the past. Has done things like food drives, book drives. Fundraising for field trip transportation. A little for tuition assistance.

**Suggestions on new parent group structure?**

- Meet 3x/ semester? (a little less than monthly)
- Do we want representation from each class? Maybe not, could create a power structure that would not be ideal for this group. Maybe so, could include fair representation making sure all voices are heard.
- Have regular meetings and have subcommittees to handle details of events, fundraising, etc.
- Want meetings with a set agenda and community building like “bite size” topics with bullet points. Jam boards were a popular tool. Outreach might be another area to emphasize.
- Meetings in person eventually (some)- in the past half day program PALS meetings were in person meetings earlier in the evening and supplied childcare.
- Committee meetings in person?

#### **Mask Group Buy - Brian Paulson**

- Mask samples and forms are at the front desk
- Try on masks
- Pay in cash or use order form online - email was sent Friday 11-12
- 3 kinds of masks, competitive prices
- Orders will probably be continuous through end of December
- Questions: email [cdlsmasks@gmail.com](mailto:cdlsmasks@gmail.com)
- Staff mask fundraiser- goal is \$600 to buy masks for staff to last through February. Already have \$200.

#### **Covid-**

- School will send out email with recommendations about Covid and Thanksgiving and upcoming holiday travel and returning to school.
- Covid testing at school has begun. Covid testing is Monday or Tuesday alternating every other week. Register on website. Testing station is right outside of building. Only for kids over 3 right now.

#### **Additional Feedback:**

- Loved the jam boards
- Last year’s meetings felt more like info sessions that a parent group
- Want this group to be more active than last year’s

