

# NEW LEAF PREP ACADEMY

## Public Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting – February 22nd 2022

Present: Dan Christoff, Nicole Siedel, Brianna Simoens, Zack Browne

Not Present: Courtney Trepanier

Also Present: Paige Christoff, Matthew Christoff, Shea Willmann

Paige Christoff called the meeting at 3:47pm

Roll Call

A MOTION was made by Nicole to approve the prior minutes. Seconded by Zack. A vote was taken on the motion; 4-Yes; MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION was made by Zack to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Brianna. A vote was taken on the motion; 4-Yes; MOTION CARRIED.

Community Input - No one spoke

Review and discuss Quarantine Policies – Started at 3:50 pm Paige presented the updated quarantine policies as changed to 5 days when it was previously 10 days. Some discussion took place. No vote required.

Review and discuss Operational Changes – Started at 3:51 pm Paige presented the benefits of making 4K Private and removing the option for 1/2 day 4K. A full-day (7 hour) program better serves the needs of children who are 4 years old. An AM and PM 4K session creates many transitions which do not allow students to feel comfortable in their classroom and makes it difficult to implement the Montessori Method. PM sessions are not developmentally supportive for 4K students because they do not allow students time to rest or nap.

3K will operate independently from other age-groups as our “Primary Studio.” 3K students will be in a single year age grouping so we can more closely target their developmental needs through a studio prepared and tailored to their unique educational and emotional needs. 4-year-old Kindergarten will be combined with Kindergarten in our “Primary” studio. All three age groups, 3K, 4K,

and Kindergarten are typically part of the Early Childhood work cycle. However at NLPA we have noticed unique educational milestones in 4K and feel pairing those students with 5-year-old Kindergarteners rather than 3K students will enable greater gains and confidence in both our Kindergarten and 4K students. Some discussion took place and questions were answered. Board agreed with the decision. No vote required.

Review and discuss additional Kindergarten Studio – Started at 3:54 pm Paige presented the benefits of adding a 2nd Primary Studio. Adding a second Primary studio each year would allow us to better meet the needs of our community. It would also allow us funding to cover costs associated with adding in specials such as music, foreign language, art, and physical education. There was discussion on how to include 4K and Kindergarten in a mixed age group as best as possible. Ultimately the consensus was that there will be 18 4K and 34-36 Kindergarten students evenly distributed across 3 classrooms. Every class will have 6 4K students and 11 to 12 Kindergarteners.

Review and discuss American Montessori Society (AMS) – Started at 4:05 pm Paige discussed the requirements to become AMS accredited. This will require New Leaf Prep Academy to at a minimum have 3 ages in every classroom by the 3rd year of school, 2023-2024. Paige answered the Boards questions. Brianna proposed to send out a packet and provide more information to let parents know how the mixed age groupings will work for those that are currently enrolled and want to enroll for next year and work to provide additional transparency that mixed-age classrooms are a component of the Montessori Method and will be implemented. Board had more discussion and ideas were shared. Also considered to move to 18 students per studio to allow to even mixing for the year 2023-2024.

A MOTION was made by Dan and seconded by Zack to go into Executive Session at 4:31 pm under provisions of State Statute 19.85(1) Subject: Employee pay, paid trainings, and benefits for 2022-2023. A vote was taken on the motion; 4-Yes; MOTION CARRIED.

The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 5:20 pm

Meeting is adjourned 5:21 pm