



## **Park Road Montessori SLT Minutes**

**April 17, 2015**

**Members Present:** Bill Aheron, Kelly Clow, Melanie Francis, Mike Herndon, Anna Hurdle, Andrew Lightley, Anna Moraglia, Jackie Peterson, Kristen Piscitelli, Susan Plaza, Jeannie Sauder, Candace Steude, Debbie Webber. PTO rep Ginger Salmon

Kristen called the meeting to order.

### **Principal's Report:**

There has been a notice in the E-bulletin for SLT members, 4 people have applied. Voting will happen in eblast next week.

### **Journey and Discovery:**

New PreK parents will get an email invitation today. Ginger asked to include Heather and Jill for PTO representation.

### **PTO Funding Review:**

Kristen asked Ginger for an update on where things stand for funding. Nothing has been set yet. Ginger will contact Jill for information. The last PTO meeting discussed changes to PTO, did not address the budget.

### **Funding Priorities 2015/16:**

SLT needs to prioritize the funding requests from the SIP.

1 - A priority is Assessment of Montessori quality inside the classroom and for the school as a whole 2015/16, depending on funding. Professional development funds not used this year will carry over to next year to help cover the assessment process. Mike asked what we used the results for. Ms. Moraglia said it will be used for feedback, professional development, and parent education. Feedback will be discussed with staff and used to make changes when possible. Ms. Anna also said the teachers get individual feedback/coaching. It is a positive learning situation not an evaluation. Target date is October 2015. Ms. Moraglia invites all the Montessori schools in Charlotte to attend any parent education events as part of the process.

2 - Professional Development – Off site Montessori professional development attendance for all classroom teachers would be on a rotation for every three to five years as budget allows. Ginger said PTO is very interested in making this happen, it is a priority for them. Kristen asked how much money the classrooms receive from fundraising - \$50,000 plus about \$15,000 from Montessori Mornings. Ginger said some teachers don't need \$2,000 each year while some need more than that. PTO can change how funding is distributed if necessary.

3 - Professional Development for Specials Teachers – Ms. Candace said most conferences are local, \$800-1000 for a week long course. Specials teachers want to make plans for attending these.

4 - Montessori Orientation / Administrator Credentials - for assistant principal and Dean of Students will hopefully be covered by the magnet office but is still a funding priority.

Ms. Candace said things change year to year and funding is usually enough to have specials teachers included. Ginger said it very important that teachers let PTO know early if they do not need their conference money so it can be redirected. Jackie said things need to be clearly laid out with a larger budget request. Ms. Moraglia said the PTO deadlines are in place now. Bill said the wording must be clear in the SIP to thoroughly cover these items. Kristen asked teachers to bring this back to their team meetings. Ginger asked for a list of grade level teacher and special area teacher conference requests at the May meeting. Ginger said the PTO assumes that when an outside source comes in to do training that it covers the entire school.

### **Teacher Recruiting:**

Kristen and Candace met and discussed recruiting ideas for 2015/16. Ms. Cynthia has a background in recruitment and also has ideas. They discussed putting together a small team to reach out to Lander, Xavier, St. Kate's, and Loyola Universities. Lander is the closest and a place to build relationships (with professors, grad students, etc.) Mike wondered if this is supposed to be handled by the district. Ms. Moraglia said that CMS has never found a candidate for Park Road. Could we partner with some of the other Montessori schools in this process? Ms. Moraglia said she could get hundreds of applications screened by CMS HR for teacher positions but none that are Montessori credentialed. Ms. Anna said we could also tie in to teacher professional development by recruiting at conferences. Ms. Moraglia said teachers need to be prepared to do this and have appropriate materials. Interns are always welcome and can be hired later as teachers. Ms. Anna said there was a stronger relationship with Xavier years ago. Students there come from all over the country. Lander students may already be spoken for in SC. Bill said we need a clear answer for candidates as to what is required by CMS – state teacher license, Praxis exams, or requirements for lateral entry. Ms. Candace said reaching out to Lander and Xavier this fall is the first step, planning a spring visit is next. We need a “sales pitch” and appropriate materials.

### **Grace and Courtesy:**

Cards were signed for Green Marathon, Spring Picnic, and bell schedule efforts.

***Next Meeting – May 15 at 7:30 AM***