

Park Road Montessori SLT Meeting 10.18.13

Anna: Principal's Update

- Diane Barnum visiting to see how effective we are as an SLT.
- SIP submitted.
- EOG test scores should be made public around 11.07.13. Should expect a significant drop in test scores. It was a new test, re-normed, etc. Drops are typically seen when new tests are given.
- Parent Education night is on Thursday 10.24. at 6pm. Romya Fernando will be working with staff, Wed, Thurs, and Friday and will speak to parents about Montessori and the Common Core.
- Last spring an additional survey was given to teaching staff - Instructional culture Insight. Just got these results on Tuesday and we can discuss next month after we've had time to look it over. Group of teachers randomly selected to participate. 23 asked, 14 responded. We were recently asked if we would like the entire staff to be included going forward. Yes, we would. Before any changes should be made we will hear from entire staff. They will take survey next month and again in the spring. There will also be a Teacher Work Conditions survey.
- There is a bond referendum on the ballot. Please vote! Information is going out in an e-bulletin. There is a wealth of information on the CMS website.
- Security updates in schools. The first wave was our swipe pads on 3 of our doors. Not sure if we will be getting more of those. Also, all children are required to wear ID badges. That is a requirement in all CMS schools. If a badge comes home parents should send it back in. October 30 we will have computers installed in the front office to track entry into the school and volunteers. A "panic" button will be installed in December. By January we will have a front door camera installed. All front doors should be locked. We will need to think about how to handle with Montessori Mornings. 2nd semester - surveillance cameras will be installed within the building. Not sure of the locations of these cameras.

Kristen- 12 Good deeds. SLT members wanted further discussion. Kristen open to questions. Flagship school status is basically opportunity for positive exposure for school. Aligns with previous efforts to import the value of public Montessori on a larger scale. Questions: value of the media coverage? Agreed, cost to be "flagship" is the issue. Bill- concerned that \$1200 could be used better to align to top SIP priorities. Mike- should we wait for something else to pop up? PTO says money is potentially there, but competes with professional development. Is it an SLT priority? Jackie- should we wait for plan B with CMS picking. Ayron- All for it. Press is valuable. A majority of the members voted to endorse the proposal to request funding for "flagship" participation. Next step- plan to prioritize funding for the future for other SIP goals. Coach Strait wants to speak to SLT about Jump Rope for Heart decision we made. Approach for fundraising - we agreed based on philosophy document that we didn't want to endorse fundraising efforts that were not consistent with our philosophy. But we would assist going forward to identify ideas to raise money in the appropriate way that the children are still involved in the process. The funds raised still need to be the same amount as raised in the past to support the classes trips to Mountain Trail School. We will form a small group to look at this more and delve into it. (Cynthia, Bill, Joy, Ayron, and another Upper El teacher)

Education Advocacy - too much testing, especially hard now that it applies to kindergarteners. Parents are not aware of the true impact - time away from teaching, having to teach younger students (Ks) to use computers or bubble answer sheets, etc. We need to provide parents testing information without emotions - just the facts, such as how many days a year the children spend testing, outlining the grassroots efforts available to join, provide a school response, etc. SLT parents and staff will identify all of the key points that need to be disseminated to parents regarding testing, identify the action plan, etc.

Bill - SLT social night for parent community to come and meet the SLT members. SLT staff members are welcome to join as well. It is on November 6th at Sir Edmund Halley's from 6:30 - 8pm. Informal gathering.

Mike - provided the questions that he and Kathy have identified. They are considering putting it out in Survey Monkey in December to staff, but will review the new "Insight" survey to see what the best approach is to get the right information.