

**Park Road Montessori
SLT Meeting
November 15, 2013**

Members Present: Bill Aheron, Aryon Dubinsky, Cathy Foushee, Sherry Herbert, Mike Herndon, Anna Hurdle, Caroline Miller, Anna Moraglia, Jackie Peterson, Kristin Piscitelli, Susan Plaza. PTO rep Joy Szymoski

Called to order by Bill Aheron.

Principal's Report:

New Test Scores (2012/13) – individual student reports not available until December 7. School reports sent home last week. Ms. Moraglia shared some testing documents. Proficiency is lower compared to past years but tests are different. Children are also taking the MAPS test this year, benchmarks determined in the fall. These tests are similar – 12/13 is the benchmark. Positives are we exceeded the growth projection as well as all of our state and federal goals. AMO is Annual Measureable Objective, no more AYP. There are 8 state and 6 federal goals for PRM. Our children did well, will continue to work for improvement. Bill attended a session explaining the scores. The percent of students deemed proficient and the value added metric estimates the expected growth compared to the actual. Testing company SAS has not released how growth scores are determined. District concern about closing the gap between subgroups – widened this year. Girls generally do better than boys as well. TD students are now a group counted on scores (must have 40 in a group to be counted.) Subgroups have different target goals; school met all target goals for each group. In the past everyone had the same goal. Growth index is determined by the entire cohort. State level targets are not clearly detailed by SAS. Very little information provided.

Bill suggested becoming as informed as possible about the new test data due to the increased public attention to it. The test itself is a huge step change with new content, much more intricate questions. PRM should be proud of their scores for the first time around especially the expected growth.

School Improvement Plan – a few adjustments were made based on updated test scores. Goals 4 and 5 (increase overall student achievement and closing the gaps.) Goal was 5%; Ms. Moraglia increased it by 7% to 80%. She added the data snapshot from 2012/13, the new math program Dreambox, and the MAP assessment as well. The SIP must be submitted before our next meeting, should be able to post it online by January.

Budget:

SLT does not have a budget of its own. There are two sources of funding for SLT – limited funds from Ms. Moraglia at the school level and any uncommitted funds from PTO. We should be clearer as a group on funding needs to implement strategies we set for the school as well as prioritizing them. Decisions on requests are challenging for Ms. Moraglia and the PTO without a priority list. Ms. Moraglia pointed out that this is the first year SLT has asked for any funding so there is not a process in place. Several of the SLT goals this year involve the need for funds (sending teachers to conferences etc.) Joy said Montessori enrichment has always been part of the PTO budget, funding can be increased or decreased, there is an amount already allocated this year but future needs would be helpful to know in advance. PTO executive board would like to know the priorities when allocating funds. Mike wondered if there will be more requests this year for funding. Bill

suggested review the SIP to determine any other needs. Cathy asked if addressing closing the gap would require funding (purchasing something for the students?) Action Item: read through SIP, email Bill with any thoughts on funding needs. "I Ready" is a program that could be helpful for students, better than Study Island. Aryon said several of her students used it last year and benefited from it. Ms. Moraglia said the district stopped funding Study Island this year; they have provided a new math program but nothing for reading. We know I Ready can be beneficial but it costs \$1600, would cover all students in the school. Cynthia said her class is using the science portion of the program. Students can work at home, teachers can monitor. Anna H said testing has changed so much, can no longer go back and check your work, time is limited etc. Online testing like MAPS calibrates things for individual students; some students are on 8th grade level now. PRM is able to let kids work ahead while traditional schools are not able to do so. Jackie explained that teachers need to use the scores to help and not get caught up in the numbers of growth.

Bill asked Ms. Moraglia to send out the latest draft of the SIP so we can discuss the budget priorities at our next meeting.

PTO report:

Joy discussed PTO support for teacher conference attendance. PTO has set aside certain funds to send some teachers from each grade level to Montessori conferences this year. Goal is to establish a multi-year process to make sure this is available to all teachers. Cathy said a concern is that special area teachers are not funded at all. Ms. Moraglia said Ginger was aware of this. Six teachers will attend each year, a 3 year cycle. Lower and Upper EI have already decided which teachers will go, Primary is drawing straws to determine who attends. It needs to be emphasized that plans need to be made now to take advantage of lower fees. Joy said there is about \$6500 for in school Montessori enrichment (for teachers and parents.) Invest money was not funding conferences so now PTO has put money in its budget for it this year. The process was not determined but there is money for 2013/14, the hope is to grow the amount to include all staff. Right now the three year cycle covers classroom teachers (not assistants or special area staff.) Anna H said it is important to remember that there is still the whole school enrichment happening each year. Anna H said there are several regional conferences that are more specific and closer to home, more affordable than the national conference. She said one year they took the night train to Baltimore for a conference. Jackie said that hopefully some teacher will need less than others. Caroline is concerned about the lack of communication between SLT and PTO on this issue. Bill said SLT has not been involved in this in the past, working to connect the dots on it now. He feels the teachers have been well informed but the SLT had not been updated. We need to review this for future years. Sherry said that even if the amount does not cover the cost, it is now affordable for teachers and they appreciate it! Ms. Moraglia said that having Joy come each month to share PTO information is very helpful. Bill suggested Anna H connect with Caroline to help with communication to create a comprehensive plan for all staff.

Staff Engagement/Satisfaction:

Ms. Moraglia said a survey will be given several times throughout the year but she has no details. Bill suggested calling the Office of Accountability, Ms. Moraglia will do that. Mike looked through the questionnaire coming from the district; he and Cathy want to supplement it with other questions. Ms. Moraglia would like to differentiate things that are school level and district level, for example work load, which we don't have any control over. Ms. Moraglia wants to know about things she can make a difference in on the

school level. Anna H and Sherry said they get many surveys and are not sure which are valid. Mike said he and Cathy have come up with questions, will work with Ms. Moraglia to get out.

Next meeting Friday, December 20.