

PARK ROAD MONTESSORI
SLT MEETING
December 20, 2013

Members Present:

Bill Aheron, Ayrton Dubinski, Kathy Foushee, Sherry Herbert, Anna Hurdle, Anna Moraglia, Susan Plaza, Debbie Webber, Cynthia Wood. PTO rep Joy Szymonski.

Called to order by Bill Aheron.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Ms. Moraglia has submitted final draft of SIP, has not received any feedback yet. Caroline Miller has resigned from SLT, needs to be replaced. Ms. Cynthia is resigning from PRIM staff, Anna will name her to fill the parent seat until next election. Staff will select a new teacher assistant for January.

If any other parent reps anticipate not returning next year, please let Ms. Moraglia know. There will be general elections this spring for the vacant parent spot (being filled by Ms. Cynthia.)

Staff thanks Joy and the PTO for the holiday gifts and appreciation cards.

PTO UPDATE:

Montessori Mornings have been very successful financially. The PTO is able to allot \$1400 per teacher (7) attending a Montessori Conference. Diane and Jeannie are attending AMI, Christine attending another. They hope to have this as a budget item for 2014/15, possibly \$1500. Ms. Sherry said this really contributes to positive staff morale. Ms. Moraglia said she would like to attend a Montessori Conference as well. She is waiting to hear from staff about bringing in a speaker.

Joy mentioned IReady, the executive board finds this important, could assist with funding. Ms. Moraglia said it is only for Math though it is well aligned with the Common Core. MAP testing is helpful but not that aligned with the EOG's. Many teachers use IReady for homework. Teachers have been asking for something, Iready is their choice for Reading and Math, possibly Science. Cynthia's class is using a Science program, a computerized SRA. The teacher can monitor it, includes vocabulary comprehension, looking for key words etc. It lists what part of the common core it connects to. This would be very helpful for 5th graders. Joy asked for pricing, Ms. Moraglia thought it is about \$1400. This is mainly for upper el though a few 3rd graders used it as well, would be nice to offer to the entire 3rd grade too. Ayrton said it is great for test preparation. Sherry said it is helpful to students who have test anxiety. Bill wants to know how these materials fit into classroom instruction, how does Primary use this? Sherry said they typically don't use these programs but they do realize the importance of access for the school. Anna H. said lower el uses the program for homework and for students who need progress monitoring done. This is generally done at home. Some parents do not like it but most like having the access at home. Students with no home computer can use it at school. Overall this does not replace classroom Montessori instruction, it supports/supplements it at home. Anna H. mentioned that some homes do not want kids on the computer, we must honor that as well.

BUDGET ISSUES:

- Linking the budget to the SIP is a priority. Goals 4 and 5 in the SIP address student achievement. Purchasing IReady would potentially fit with this.
- Bill said it would be helpful for each grade level to come with a wish list for programs they would like to see in the school for their students. This would help prioritize items for the budget. Joy thought this should be done as quickly as possible in order to get programs in place prior to EOGs. Cynthia will check on pricing for programs. Bill wants to have specific idea of costs for each budget item.
- Professional Development – makes sense to add a request to send Ms. Moraglia to a conference this year. AMI and AMS both have spring conferences she is considering. Phase 1 is getting the foundation in place with 7 teachers per year. Phase 2 is perhaps adding TAs or specials teachers. Ms. Moraglia is able to pay for some training for Ms. Charlotte, Kathy etc. This year the PTO has funded teacher conference attendance at \$9600. Is it possible to be more specific with line items to include TAs and specials teacher training. Sherry feels it is very important to offer this to our support staff. Joy said it will have to be capped or eat into direct classroom money as we don't want to add more fundraisers. Anna H. said keep the 7 teachers per year and add 1 special area per year. Joy asked how many support teachers there are. Ms. Moraglia thought it may be more efficient to bring someone in to train all assistants at once. She also worries about class coverage if teachers are out at conferences. Kathy suggested having a PRM teacher do the training. Cynthia suggested doing this on a Saturday or teacher workday and getting 1 day pay. Ms. Moraglia said that would not be possible with the time clock. Bill suggested using parents to act as subs to help cover classrooms when assistants are training. Ms. Moraglia said the training needs to be general to the Montessori philosophy, not classroom specific. Anna H. said she would be happy to help with this. Ms. Moraglia said something could be included in the monthly assistant meetings as well. Bill suggested looking at teachers who are retired that may participate as well. Sherry said there are many very talented teachers on staff here to contribute to this. Bill thought this has a fairly limited impact on budget, just a stipend for the presenter(s). Perhaps we can design something for the spring. Cynthia and Sherry will assist Anna H. in developing this.

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Other budget items – PRM Cares. Cynthia said the whole goal of PRM Cares is to be self-sufficient regarding funding. She prefers that it be volunteer driven, does not intend to use PTO funds. The DVD filming for 12 Good Deeds occurred Tuesday, features 11 students all over campus. It will be going out to schools nationwide. The launch date for our school is February 10.

Goal 6 – subsection on Parent Ed/communication. Who was on point for this? Would like update in January.

Kathy and Mike will provide an update on Staff Engagement in January.

Bill discussed the Advocacy Committee. He has been working with an extended group of staff and teachers from PRM, Highland Mill, and Chantilly to emphasize the importance of

staffing with the launch of the new CMS Montessori school. He feels they have strengthened parent connections at the current Montessori schools, have made important connections to CMS administration on this effort. He is hopeful that this collaboration is headed in a positive direction. Anna H. is pleased that there is awareness now in the community and with the BOE. Hopefully the BOE will hold senior staff accountable in this process. Mike Herndon spoke at the BOE meeting last week in support of this issue. Anna H. speaks for the staff and PRM community to thank Bill for all of this work.

Next Meeting – January 17, 2014