

PARK ROAD MONTESSORI
SLT Meeting
February 21, 2014

Members Present: Bill Aheron, Aaryon Dubinsky, Mike Herndon, Sherry Herbert, Anna Hurdle, Anna Moraglia, Jackie Peterson, Kristen Piscitelli, Susan Plaza, Candace Steude, Debbie Webber. PTO rep Joy Szymonski

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE:

School Improvement Plan is on the website. PTO funding for staff conferences – Ms. Jean, Ms. Kelly, and Ms. Diane attended the AMI conference and will share info with their teams. Upper El has not attended anything yet. PRM is trying to be supportive of the new Long Creek Montessori program, met with their principal to give feedback. The principal wants it to be authentic Montessori. Our PTO sent a welcome gift to the school. We are sharing resumes with them to help get a jump on hiring. It is part lottery, part interview to get PreK-3 students.

ADVOCACY UPDATE:

Bill thanked Anna H and Ms. Moraglia and the other PRM staffs who has been so helpful as Long Creek takes shape. Bill has been working on advocacy for Montessori in CMS, met with senior administrators to educate them about Montessori. This will help them support existing programs and help create new programs. There was a survey done of parents at the current Montessori schools in CMS. Parents want certified Montessori teachers in all classrooms (92% chose this as their top criteria.) They asked the principals how many certified Montessori teachers they currently have in their school, 79% now in CMS. We want to help the other schools raise awareness to get this issue addressed. CMS has a challenge now finding those teachers for Long Creek (Montessori trained with a NC teaching license.) Lateral entry is a possibility there. Candace mentioned that Lander Univ. has a Montessori training program, could they satellite a program at Winthrop for Charlotte teachers. Ms. Moraglia said those conversations have been taking place but CMS legal had some issues. Lander is willing to work with us on this. Bill discussed the high school program, not much going on with this currently. The focus has been on Long Creek and other schools with vacancies. CMS has promised the creation of an advisory board to continue this process. Aaryon said some parents came to her about the middle school, concerned about the location. Sedgefield will remain in place next year.

STAFF SATISFACTION – Kathy and Mike began this process, Candace has taken over for Kathy. Mike reported that he sent out 4 versions of the survey results. The most consistent results were about meetings, a few differences between the teacher and assistant communities as well as with support staff. Mike asked us to really examine the results and let him and Candace know of any concerns. They want to put together a small work group to come up with

some action items to address issues. Aaryon and Kristen will participate as well. Candace was pleased that the overall survey results were positive. Ms. Moraglia wanted to know which areas were of concern. Candace said meetings seemed to be an issue. Anna H said her grade level discussed the problems with trying to engage the assistants this year since they come and go with the students, not here on work days or at staff meetings. Sherry and Candace discussed the issue of assistants not being paid to attend. Ms. Moraglia said PRM is the only school with an assistant in every class. Mike discussed other work environments, said in comparison the level of positivity here was very impressive. Bill emphasized the need to read the results and give feedback to Mike and Candace. ***NEXT STEPS – small group will come up with action items to address issue brought forward by SLT members.***

PARENT ED - Jackie discussed Parent Ed video library. Video lessons are needed, please send to her. Aaryon asked if the videos are to be of children or just the teacher giving the lesson. Video/Photo release forms must be on file for any children involved. Next year summaries of Parent Ed nights will be videotaped. Aaryon suggested that National Board Certified teachers may have videos on file to include. She said that Curt is getting a new case for his Ipad that has a microphone, is working with editing etc. and can do the videotaping for Upper El. Pinnacle Studio is an Ipad app that his students are working with. ***ACTION ITEM – compile a spread sheet of the videos we do have.***

PTO REPORT – Joy said Green Marathon will kick off Monday. There will be a special eblast; there will not be pep rallies. Ms. Moraglia may wear a green wig! PTO Executive meeting is coming up this weekend. Candace spoke to support staff about training opportunities; they have non Montessori trainings they need to attend. They mentioned going with the teachers to AMI or other conferences, great opportunity for collaboration. AMI will not let non certified staff attend but AMA and NAMTA will allow this. Bill said encouraging specials teachers to attend Montessori conferences with teachers would be preferred for use of PTO funding. The professional development is for Montessori training. Joy said there should be a relatively firm budget by the end of the school year, can begin to plan for these conferences then. Teams should determine the next 7 teachers to attend. Bill clarified that the PTO funds for professional development covered 7 classroom teachers. We are hopeful that next year funding will permit a support staff to attend as well. Kristen had questions about funds, is this only for Montessori professional development? Ms. Moraglia confirmed that is correct. She has some funds to cover some staff for other programs. Candace asked about teachers not using these funds – does it go back into the pool? Ms. Moraglia instructed staff to share with their teams the importance of determining who is going early on so funds can be used for other staff if needed. Jackie suggested coming up with guidelines on the process, PTO should decide what to do with funds. Bill suggested that each grade level could choose an alternate in addition to those selected. Sherry agreed with this idea. Joy said it does not need to come to PTO if an alternate from the same grade level can attend. To clarify – SLT asks PTO for funding for Montessori staff development. Ms. Moraglia said it is important to know where staff members are going for

training. Jackie suggested having teachers submit their plans. Bill agreed and asked Aaryon, Anna H, and Sherry to confirm plans with Joy.

PRM Cares – successful Ronald McDonald House event. Bright Blessings is the March event. In April participants will collect left over bagels daily from Einstein Bagels to deliver to soup kitchens etc. In May there will be an Urban Ministries event. 120 students have signed up for 12 Good Deeds. Bill has gotten some questions about fund raising with this and the Green Marathon. Kristen said that the focus of 12 Good Deeds will be on completing good deeds, not collecting money. This program is an outside voluntary program, not a fundraiser for the school. It is not to compete with the Green Marathon. Joy agrees, PTO wants the fundraising to be secondary to the good deeds.

NEXT MEETING MARCH 21st, 7:30am