

**Park Road Montessori
SLT Meeting
May 16, 2014**

Members Present: Bill Aheron, Yetta Buchanan, Aryon Dubinsky, Sherry Herbert, Mike Herndon, Anna Hurdle, Anna Moraglia, Jackie Peterson, Kristen Piscitelli, Susan Plaza, Candace Steude, Debbie Webber, Cynthia Wood

Called to order by Bill Aheron.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE:

Welcome Melanie Francis, new parent rep. Ms. Cynthia will be rotating off. Last month Ms. Debbie mentioned the staffing situations we have, MS. Sherry and MS. Kelly are both leaving. Ms. Moraglia has found Carey Montgomery (Ms. Jeannie's assistant) to take Ms. Kelly's class; as well another candidate for Ms. Sherry's class, who comes from Countryside Montessori. The PRM Learning Compact was given to all parents at Beginners Day and discussed in small groups. These parents signed the document; these are on file in the office. Other new parents will receive the information in August. Third graders begin testing next Friday, 100% have shown proficiency already so no child will be required to attend summer reading sessions.

Melanie Francis has a 1st grader and a rising PreK; she is an assistant principal at Carmel Middle School.

Montessori Advocacy:

Anna, Maggie, and Curt designed a program for adults to experience the Montessori style of education. They gave lessons, used materials etc. in Primary, Lower El, and Upper El. Many CMS administrators were invited as well as all incoming families. 15-16 new parents attended, 3 members of the BOE including Tim Morgan and Mary McCray, Valerie Truesdale, Magnet Director, and Scott McCully, among others. All left with a deeper understanding of Montessori education and were deeply impressed. We hope to continue this in the future as a form of parent education. The challenge is doing it on a Saturday morning, limited to maybe 30 participants each time. Ms. Anna said that they had a debriefing session afterward and they all got a lot out of it as well, it was very refreshing. Ms. Sherry suggested doing it again in the early fall for new parents, maybe only invite Primary parents. This is when Primary parents are very eager to learn more. It would be an opportunity to grow the future leadership of the school. Bill discussed the other Montessori advocacy work that has been done this year – CMS now requires that Montessori teachers are credentialed or in training, CMS is developing a training program, work continues to bring the entire community together, the formation of a new CMS Montessori Parent Advisory group made of 2 parents from each Montessori school. Jill Goodrich and Bill are reps from PRM. This group will meet monthly. Ms. Moraglia would like to see

administrators and teachers included in the group. Each segment needs to come together. Mike asked about the purpose of the group. Bill is uncertain.

Parent Education Update:

Jackie reported on the PRM Video Library. She and Cynthia have a lot of material to work with. There is a UTube page to upload the videos to. That is the next step. Cynthia is donating a handheld camera that teachers can check out to develop videos. This will make it very easy to accumulate more material. Ms. Anna suggested filming segments of the Great Lessons next fall. Jackie and Cynthia will continue to work on this over the summer.

Parent Expectation document is in good shape, will be used with each student/family. The goal is that all new families have a clear understanding.

Exit Survey: There are questions of when families will be given the survey and how will we use the information. It would be good to do it this spring/summer. Becky would have this information, requests come for transfer of information throughout the summer. Jackie suggested waiting for the official request for transcripts/withdrawal before sending the exit document. Aryon does know of one 5th grader. Bill suggested that Ms. Moraglia receive the documents, she can share information with SLT in the September meeting. Ms. Anna pointed out that most students are leaving for middle school or Kindergarten. The others who leave will be of interest to discuss. Bill will send Ms. Moraglia the link.

Staff Satisfaction:

Ms. Candace and Mike have met with most teams for in depth discussions after the survey. The overall message is positive. Team meeting efficiency and sharing of minutes were high priorities. The support staff team feels that they have been able to contribute more this year. Ms. Aryon suggested having a morning group for kids who need physical activity before class. This type of connection is what staff is looking for, sharing with each other. The assistants are frustrated by their treatment by the state, they want to feel valued. They would like more training and an additional meeting per month geared toward training, perhaps by teachers on staff. Ms. Moraglia has purchased some books and videos from AMI to use for this purpose. There is also an expectations/handbook document being developed for assistants, perhaps teachers could help with this effort. Cynthia said there is so much to take in as a new assistant. Assistants have a lot of the “child care” responsibilities. Bill suggested using the philosophy document as a starting point for assistant expectations. As far as training goes the SIP includes this goal. Ms. Moraglia will wait for the calendar before scheduling a training session early in the year, it will happen after August 25. Bill assumes that assistants will not be on the clock until the first day of school. Ms. Anna brought up the problem of childcare as well. Mike said the monthly training session is a good place to start. Ms. Moraglia has already discussed this with assistants, they are all supportive of this.

Testing Impact and Mitigation: Ms. Debbie explained the changes to the coordination of how testing was completed. We utilized the media center to facilitate the MAP testing, children were pulled from their classes in groups to complete the tests. Lower El asked for classes to be pulled as a whole, Upper El chose to use current way of pulling students by grade level so they can continue to teach and work with the other students. DIBELS were facilitated differently as well utilizing much of the support staff to complete it. Ms. Moraglia explained the changes being made are to try and limit the interruption to classroom instruction. Bill is hopeful to have a discussion over the summer with CMS administration about testing impacts to classroom instruction time. Bill would like another parent to help him with approaching CMS administration. Jackie asked what our goal is in approaching them. Bill indicated it is to hold them accountable for the impacts and trying to limit those impacts.

Bill suggested that we again hold an August meeting to start the 2014-2015 year. All agreed that we should do that.