

Park Road SLT Meeting  
August 21, 2013

Members present – Bill Aheron, Kristin Piscitelli, Susan Plaza, Anna Hurdle, Caroline Miller, Jackie Peterson, Kathy Foushee, Anna Moraglia, Cynthia Wood, and Aryon Dubinsky

Called to order by Anna Moraglia. Began with secret ballot elections for 2013/14 officers. Introduction of members, Kathy Foushee is filling in for Ms. Candace this fall semester.

#### Principal's Report:

School starts Monday August 26! Enrollment is about 493, will be adding a few from the wait list. Numbers are good at all grade levels including upper el. Staffing – filling 2 assistant positions, one with Montessori credentials, academic facilitator position still open.

PRM is now in the Central Learning Community (no more zones); Kit Rea is our community superintendent.

Power School – entire state changing to the system, all going live on Monday. Patience requested! Transportation is a concern that information is correct, bus numbers etc. There will be a parent component as well. Instruction will occur no matter what!

Montessori Expansion – no real updates. Ms. Moraglia and Ms. Anna went to visit Derita, had a positive impression of the facility (for the new high school.) There have been concerns with the locations but Derita is right in the middle of the county. Difficulties with locations for the new south elementary Montessori.

New Initiative – Universal Free Breakfast. All CMS students will have free breakfast available. Students will eat prior to going to class. No way of knowing how many to prepare for.

Key Card Pads – every school was given 3. Mobile units will be locked down each day; the 3<sup>rd</sup> pad will be at the back door of B Building (the 3 doors farthest from the main office.) Must have a keycard to access the building. Ms. Moraglia attended an active shooter workshop. All students will be required to wear an ID badge at school. Possibly getting a panic button, more key card pads, door buzzer for main building are planned for the future.

Teacher Assistants – No assistants were lost at PRM. Assistants in primary are still 40 hours per week but Lower and Upper El have reduced hours.

Test Scores – due in October.

New Assessments – Dibels 3D (for K-3) reading test in September. Bringing back the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading pre-test in September. Both are mandated by the state. MAP assessment (CMS requirement) for K-6 also in September, an online test. Dibels and MAP tests are given 3 times a year. PRM will not be doing any additional in house testing. MAP tests on grade level

curriculum for reading and math – diagnostic and progress.

PRM Philosophy Document – has been completed this summer, many staff members involved in the creation. Ms. Anna H and Ms. Ann P finalized the document. It will be used when decisions have to be made, does it align with the philosophy? This is the guide for our school. The document will be posted to the school website and be included in the SIP.

### School Improvement Plan:

District requires there be one goal related to student achievement growth as a whole.

2<sup>nd</sup> goal addresses the achievement gap (between lowest and highest achievers.)

3<sup>rd</sup> goal is Montessori related.

Goals are set, details are not. Timeline for SIP – due to district mid-September, goes downtown for feedback, final copy due mid-October. Ms. Moraglia asked for input, 3<sup>rd</sup> goal must be measureable (in relation to EOGs.) All work must be given to Ms. Moraglia by September 4.

Ms. Anna asked about having Parent Education as a goal, would parent attendance be measureable? Yes, but has to impact EOG's in a positive way. Parent Ed – how can we reach more people? Alternative ways of delivering the message – video, webinars, etc. Ms. Kathy suggested including the students in some presentations. Ms. Cynthia mentioned a new video camera, \$250, small and takes good video. Ms. Moraglia discussed the individual class Parent Eds, possibly use smart phones to video and put up on the teacher's website. New camera would be for whole school events.

\* Action Item: Jackie and Cynthia will lead a subcommittee to further explore ideas.

Bill discussed addressing Goal 3 – parent engagement is one portion. School authenticity to the Montessori philosophy is another portion (strategy 2.) How can the rest of the school do its work, not just the classroom – administration, specials, etc? Ms. Kathy pointed out that the special area teachers are not Montessori trained. Perhaps a Montessori “audit”, bring in outside help to assess how to improve. CMS Task Force does discuss assessing magnet programs, we could ask for funding for this. Ms. Anna suggested that teachers who are not trained can still try to incorporate the philosophy document ideas in their classrooms. New teachers would need support. Ms. Cynthia suggested getting just the Montessori Philosophy class for non-certified teachers, not the entire training.

\* Action Item: Ms. Anna will explore how to measure the Montessori authenticity at the school. This is not as concrete as other magnet topics. Bill and Caroline will assist.

Volunteering - Increasing community service 10% overall. This should be collaboration with PRM Cares. Currently no baseline data.

Bill suggested that SLT goals should be in the SIP. Ms. Moraglia suggests focusing on few goals in a more in depth manner. These include Parent Ed and Technology. Bill asked about attrition – why are families leaving PRM. Rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders leave due to concerns about the

Montessori Middle. He also asked about ways parents can effectively support the teachers at PRM (cafeteria, bus line, provide planning time etc.)

Bill summarized - key topics that were flagged for potential inclusion in the SIP (in addition to the required 2 about growth and gap closure):

- Parent communication, education and engagement (Jackie and Cynthia to lead sub-team)
- Montessori authenticity, as described in "Philosophy" document, potentially with outside feedback (Anna H., Bill, and Caroline to lead sub-team)
- Staff engagement and satisfaction (Kathy and ??? to coordinate)
- Optimizing use of parent volunteers vs. teachers and TAs [follow up unclear] - possibly connect it to required goal about protected planning time. (For reference statute says SIP:
  - Shall include a plan to provide a duty-free lunch period for every teacher on a daily basis or as otherwise approved by the school improvement team; and
  - Shall include a plan to provide duty-free instructional planning time for every teacher under G.S. §15C-301.1, with the goal of providing an average of at least five hours of planning time per week.
- Volunteering (PRM Cares) - seems like a stand-alone goal

Officers voted in for 2013/14 school year are as follows:

Chair – Bill Aheron

Co-Chair – Anna Hurdle

Secretary – Susan Plaza

Time Keeper – Cynthia Wood

**Next Meetings: Friday, September 6 and  
Friday, September 20, at 7:30am**