

Park Road Montessori
SLT Meeting
January 17, 2014

Members Present: Bill Aheron, Ayrton Dubinsky, Sherry Herbert, Mike Herndon, Anna Hurdle, Anna Moraglia, Jackie Peterson, Kristen Piscitelli, Susan Plaza, Candace Steude, Ms. Yeda, Debbie Webber, Cynthia Wood. PTO Rep Joy Szymonski.

Called to order by Bill Aheron.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Ms. Yeda is new SLT assistant staff representative.

SIP final copy being sent in today. Mike wondered why it was not due until January, Ms. Moraglia said it was due to late test scores this year. As soon as she gets notification from downtown the SIP will be posted on the SLT website.

Ms. Stacy has gone out on maternity leave, Ms. Danielle will be with Ms. Denene for the rest of the year. Theresa Lee is a new Montessori assistant teacher, will be in Ms. Cynthia's room currently.

I Ready - Teachers wanted to acquire this. Original quote was \$1400 for the year; new price is \$4500, which would cover about 150 students in grades 2-6 (\$30 per seat.) New books will be purchased at a cost of \$2700.

BUDGET / PTO REPORT:

Teachers are registering for conferences; this should go through Becky for payment. Today is the last day for early registration at AMS. Joy can do a PayPal through the PTO account.

Winter dance is not a fund raiser, just a fun activity. We are not sure what to expect in terms of numbers, fitting into the gym etc. Anna H said it has been done in the past successfully in the gym. Green Marathon prep is beginning, trying to get the kids involved, it is a fundraiser. Budget planning for 2014/15 will occur soon, SLT involved. There are discussions about doing the Green Marathon every year instead of alternating with the silent auction. Jackie suggested keeping the Carpool Pickup auction/raffle, raises close to \$1000.

Bill thanked Joy and the PTO for their support with teacher conferences. Joy reminded the group that Invest, Marathon, and Montessori Mornings support the budget. Mornings are exceeding the expected amount of income this year; most of the conference funding comes from this budget.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

What things in the plan require funding above that provided by CMS? I Ready supports Goals 4 and 5. Professional Development is another. PRM Cares will not use PTO funds. Bill asked for other suggestions that need funding.

Staff Development - The original estimate was about \$5600 for conferences for 7 classroom teachers, this estimate turned out to be low, is now \$9800. The goal is to expand this in future years (\$1400 per person) but where will money come from – increase fundraising? Take from somewhere else?

Ms. Sherry wondered if a staff member attends a regional conference and does not use their \$1400 allotment could the excess funds be used for another staff member that year. Joy confirmed this is possible. Ms. Candace said most of the special area conferences are more local/regional so it is less expensive for support staff. Ms. Moraglia said there are several staff members who are considering regional conferences this year. Joy encouraged staff to decide as soon as possible to take advantage of early registration prices.

Bill said the minimum goal will be 7 again next year, he suggests putting a December deadline for conference choices. This would allow any additional staff members to be included if funds allow. Joy suggested deciding who is going at the end of this school year. She wanted to get some idea of the cost for support staff so they could estimate appropriately. Candace will investigate with her team. Joy said they are open to looking at critical needs for this year. ACTION ITEM – Candace will have numbers by the April meeting. Joy said Marathon proceeds will help determine budget for next year.

Bill asked for more information on “In School Professional Development” – speakers, mentors, etc. Joy said there is \$6500 provided by PTO for Montessori Enrichment, used at Ms. Moraglia’s discretion. Ms. Moraglia said she was clearly told that the money was to be used only for this purpose. The district does not provide Montessori professional development while it does provide things for special areas. Bill said there is work to be done on in school Montessori development opportunities for special teachers and support staff, he and Anna H will continue to move along on this. He asked for feedback. Ms. Cynthia said there is more value in doing something for assistants at the school as opposed to sending them to conferences. Anna H said an exception would be a conference that occurs in Charlotte. Bill also suggested finding opportunities for administrators. Ms. Candace wants to find more ways to collaborate so special areas teachers and classroom teachers are supporting each other – Montessori based professional development that includes the entire staff. Bill said that it appears the group consensus is that in future the desired goal would be to have funding for 7 staff, 1 special area, and 1 administrator attending conferences next year.

IReady: Jackie asked for some clarification on “seat” for licenses – can students share a seat? Ms. Moraglia said she would prefer something that can be used by all students in grades 3-6. IReady has been used in the past for a much lower cost. Dream Box is hard for a teacher to use. Jackie mentioned that AIMS WEB is another program that can be used. Ms. Moraglia said is it only for certain children as well, she will look into the possibility of using it for others. Mike asked about the IReady cost, does the cost decrease with additional seats? Study Island is not as rigorous as IReady, there may be another program out there that is cheaper. Ms. Cynthia said there are many programs out there that cannot be used on CMS computers. Need to be aware of this as we research other alternatives. Kristen asked what does CMS fund? Ms. Moraglia said Dreambox for math, nothing for reading. Bill clarified that teachers want this, there is a question of how many seats, and there is no other funding at the school level.

Jackie asked about funding that other non-Title 1 schools get for tutors, \$18 per hour tutors. Jackie will research this, look for other funding sources in CMS and provide information to Anna M.. Joy will determine how much PTO can contribute. Anna H wants to be certain that none of these programs will take away from class instructional time. Joy’s concerns are that it

does not benefit the entire school and that it is not an ongoing program without additional funds. Bill agrees that there is a time crunch to get a program as soon as possible but he does not think that PTO should commit to an ongoing cost. Kristen is also concerned that so few students are benefiting from IReady.

Anna H also suggested asking parents to pay for the seat license, provide scholarships for those unable to do so. Mike asked who would approach parents - the teachers? Jackie asked about the number of FRL students here, 15%. Jackie suggested that it be opened to all students, do not suggest that a student needs it. Ms. Moraglia asked how parents would respond to another request for money? Parents already donate to Invest, Green Marathon, and other fundraisers. Anna H suggested presenting it like buying books at the book fair, an enrichment opportunity, not something that is needed by the school. Jackie said we are not asking for money, we are suggesting a resource. Worst case scenario is that the kids who need it don't buy it. Joy said that all parents want their kids to succeed and will pay for it if they can. Bill said the upper el kids pay \$150 for activities, 80-90% do it. Which is most important – reading or math? Bill said there needs to be a common message given to parents.

Ms. Moraglia wants to discuss this with staff before moving forward. Ms. Cynthia said doing this for the fall is a better idea, especially for 5th and 6th graders. Anna H said that we do still have Study Island, Ms. Moraglia said don't depend on it (don't put it in a PEP!) ACTION ITEM – Ms. Moraglia will discuss with staff and report back in February. Joy asked how many PEP's do we have in the school? The 150 number for IReady includes these.

Other:

Mike and Candace will work on staff satisfaction and provide update in February.

Parent Ed/Communication – Jackie asked staff to contribute videos that will help parents understand Montessori as well as lesson video highlights to create a video library.

PRM Cares: 12 Good Deeds launch is at PRM Wednesday February 12, local media will attend. Kristen and Cynthia will be going to lower and upper el classrooms to recruit students.

ACTION ITEM – other PRM Cares activities update next meeting.

NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 21st