

**Park Road Montessori
SLT Meeting
September 12, 2014**

Members Present: Bill Aheron, Yetta Buchanan, Ayron Dubinsky, Melanie Francis, Mike Herndon, Anna Hurdle, Jackie Peterson, Kristen Piscitelli, Susan Plaza, Jeannie Sauder, Candace Steude, Debbie Webber, PTO Rep Ginger Salmon

Principal's Report:

Discussed 2014 EOG test results, explained federal cohorts etc. Grading was changed so difficult to compare results to last year. Had good growth rates in reading and science, some growth in math. We did have 100% reading proficiency. Some students took advantage of the reading camps but none were required to attend.

Staff Survey – CMS did an Insight staff survey, taken fall 2013, spring 2014, fall 2014. Scores went up in all areas except career progression. Workload received a low score but much of that is not school level. Ms. Moraglia and Candace will discuss with staff and FAC to get more feedback in these two areas. Ms. Cynthia represents the school at STAC. PRM has created a new PEP that meets requirements but lessens the workload. Candace mentioned that this survey does not take the place of the survey she and Mike created last year.

Exit Survey – was sent to families August 26, 2014. A second email was sent September 10 due to low response. Three total were received, one pre-k, one first grader, and one fifth grader. Seven Pre-Ks left this year, several were CMS employee children; 4 Ks, 4 first graders, 2 second, 4 third, 0 fourth, 5 fifth left. Current enrollment is 519. This year we have 74 Pre-K and 70K students.

Learning Compact – Open House was not the best time for that to happen. It could be shared at Back to School Night, or during 1st Quarter Conferences.

School Improvement Plan – Bill asked if there were any proposed changes from what was seen in August. Ms. Moraglia said she updated demographics etc. but no major changes. Assistants are beginning professional development this month. Mandatory goals are the same this year. The School Health Committee needs more effort this year – Scott Strait, Ayron Dubinsky, cafeteria staff, possibly the school nurse. Student achievement goals are mandatory – closing the gap and raising test scores. District wants the gap less than 10 points. The new test created a larger gap. We have the most flexibility with Goal 6, Montessori learning. Kristen asked about Goal 3 regarding bullying and character education. PRM will follow CMS policy regarding bullying, counselor will be involved. It is not frequently reported here. Grace and Courtesy goes a long way to help with this. Ms. Anna mentioned that the term has gotten out of hand; we need to clearly define it. Children have learned that it is a “trigger word” for parents. Jackie said that schools that don't have a school wide system have issues with bullying, PRM has our grace and courtesy system, children have to work out their problems together, learning how to correctly apologize, teachers help them talk through things. Bill had some data points to share on the staff survey, planning time is not sufficient to accomplish essential work. PRM scores dropped from fall 2013 to spring 2014, less than district average. Ms. Ayron mentioned that testing may have contributed to this. Ms. Moraglia believes that there may be more frustration with testing here than in traditional schools as it does not go with our philosophy. Bill

mentioned the attempt to get testing data from other schools, they felt testing was a critical part of their system. PRM looks more at the whole child than the test score. Melanie said that the planning average for the district also includes secondary schools with large planning blocks, if PRM was compared to elementary only we would likely be more similar.

SIP Goal 6: Kristen wondered how we were tracking parental attendance at Parent Ed events. Bill suggested we make it more comprehensive, perhaps have teachers track their class families, be a bit more creative at defining what we are trying to measure. Ayron said Upper El gets better attendance if they do a separate night than the rest of the school. She also said that she gets many volunteers though they cannot always come into school – they help at home. This is still involvement/engagement. Ms. Moraglia asked what changes we want to make. Jackie suggested that as we are not tracking attendance we need to eliminate that portion. Ms. Moraglia said we can track data from the computer only. We will add the Learning Compact to this section.

Montessori Coordinator – Ms. Moraglia said she had to create this position, it was not an extra, she had to give something up to get this. We have 1.5 positions for Academic Facilitator.

Recruiting – continuing to work on the effort and how to work with downtown administration. Candace and Kristen will share more next month.

Outside observations – Ms. Anna discussed it happening every three years. Peer observations are already happening. It has been at least three years, nothing scheduled as of yet. Bill suggested sharing best practices for faculty, would also be great to get observations of what we are doing well as a school, get suggestions etc. It would be helpful to bring in public sector Montessori teachers as they are aware of constraints of a public system.

Montessori training for staff - Assistants are beginning training this year, support staff will be next year's focus. PTO is providing money for conferences.

Bill will continue looking at how to track Grace and Courtesy as well as PRM Cares.

Teacher Engagement – Mike and Candace covered this with the survey last year. Ms. Moraglia suggested that FAC take this on, Ms. Ayron will share information with the SLT.

Upper El Fundraising Efforts:

Kristen asked if these efforts are following the PRM philosophy document, especially the Auto Bell fundraiser. This raised \$6000 for Upper El last year. Game nights involve the children much more and raised \$400-\$500 each night. Smaller fundraisers were not efficient, too much class time was lost. The main constraint is CMS regulations regarding transportation, CMS buses are half the cost of the camping trip. The other constraint is not competing with the cafeteria – they are unable to sell food anymore. Ms. Anna mentioned that Invest in Your Child implies that there are no other fundraisers at school. PRM also discusses being green yet we send out so many paper fundraisers. How do we communicate with parents? Ginger said the PTO can assist with communications and reducing paper by using the PTO website. It was agreed that Upper El would continue with their current fundraisers while researching other options.

Other: Ms. Moraglia distributed a revised testing schedule. This will be discussed in October. All teams are collecting data on class time used for testing.

Next Meeting October 17, 7:30am