

**Park Road Montessori
SLT Meeting
October 17, 2014**

Members Present: Bill Aheron, Yetta Buchanan, Ayron Dubinsky, Melanie Francis, Mike Herndon, Anna Hurdle, Andrew Lightsey, Jackie Peterson, Kristen Piscitelli, Susan Plaza, Jeannie Sauder, Candace Williamson

Principal's Report:

SIP has been submitted, waiting to hear if finalized, will be put up on website. There was a discussing about offering band for our 6th graders. We do not have a position for this, have been sharing with Sedgefield. This year Ms. Candace will be offering a class as the band teacher cannot be here for a long period of time. This impacts about 10 children. Most middle schools do not offer beginning band for 7th graders so it is important to offer this for our 6th graders.

Ms. Melinda has started assistant teacher Professional Development, 4h Monday of the month. The September focus was the 4 planes of learning. Focus for October will be a review of the 4 planes and how it affects the peace curriculum.

We discussed the assessment schedule and list of required tests for CMS. MAPS test results will be discussed at conferences. We do not have permission from the state to release the BOG results yet for 3rd graders. Bill asked about NAEP, this is just for 4th and 8th graders, not all schools participate each year. This is a national test used to compare districts. TD testing should also be included in the list. The 3rd grade takes the BOG 3 one day, Reading 3D, Maps Math and Reading tests, all in a 6 week window. PRM teachers had input in the process. This year MAPS is in December and Reading 3D is in January. Kristen mentioned that parents are a bit confused about MAPS results. There needs to be a consistent message.

Testing Update:

Ms. Anna reported that Ms. Christine has developed a method of data collection for the staff. This spreadsheet will identify the amount of lost instructional time for students and teachers. The lower EI is currently doing this. Ms. Jeanne said that the primary team is keeping records as well. Bill suggested both groups use the same program, can be filtered by grade level. Kristen asked what we want to do with the information. Ms. Moraglia said this is discussed with staff to try to reduce the impact of testing on instructional time, however what does the SLT want to do with the data? Jackie suggested perhaps a parent group or administration could take this to the district. Bill thought we would have initial data to analyze in November. Ms. Ayron asked about MAPS testing because all students use different amount of time for the test, Bill suggested using the average amount of time. Teacher impact is important to measure – now assistants cannot give Dibels tests due to pay for performance issues.

Teacher Insight Survey:

FAC received the results. They felt several items were not things that could be addressed at this level but were driven by district or state guidelines. FAC made up of staff, meet monthly without administration to discuss school issues. Bill and Mike looked at the survey results – suggested the FAC proposes an action plan of sorts to address any problems identified by the survey. Kristen mentioned that meetings were an issue, perhaps FAC could look at this. Ms. Anna reported that Lower El team meetings alternate – one week is designated for district business, the next is for discussing Montessori philosophy, curriculum etc. Teachers pair up and take certain days to present for discussion with the group. Administration attends the Montessori meetings. Bill also mentioned teacher retention. This issue is more focused on job satisfaction not actual numbers of teachers leaving. We can recognize teachers, encourage them to return etc. What is the action plan to continue to improve? Bill wants to know how SLT can connect with FAC on this. Ms. Ayron said that years ago teachers felt very discouraged about test results. Ms. Candace suggested that Bill write down his thoughts, she will pass it on to the FAC. Mike and Bill have a report to share, Ms. Candace will be the liaison for this.

Upper El Fundraising:

Ms. Ayron said these things takes a lot of time, they don't want to lose the activities that make a lot of money. Kristen said that Mr. Curt has lessons around the Auto bell fundraiser (budget, trip costs, etc.) Bill reported that the students have a very detailed plan, they are accountable, not the parents. Ms. Aryon understands that we want this to be student driven, but the trip is more important than the fundraising lessons. She also said that many of her students have extensive after school activities, there is no time for lessons on fundraising. Ms. Candace summarized – the trip experience is the most important focus, not the learning about fundraising. Ms. Anna discussed the Montessori philosophy and how fundraising fits in. She said parents have asked about Invest being advertised as the only fundraiser yet we have other smaller ones. Jackie said this is kid driven, we are not making a profit, there are no prizes etc. Ms. Candace mentioned that the PTO communicated to the parents this year about the additional fundraisers to help parents understand this year. Jackie suggested that Upper El share any new ideas with the SLT. Other upper el fundraisers are Valentine flowers and spring bulbs, these can be done online. SLT needs to make a decision one way or the other – keep these fundraising options or request that PTO fund the trips. The group agreed to keep things the way they are.

Journey and Discovery will be discussed next month.

Next Meeting – Friday, November 14, 7:30am