

**Park Road Montessori  
SLT Meeting  
November 21, 2014**

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

Called to order by Kristen Piscitelli.

**Principal's Report:**

School Improvement Plan has been approved. It can always be adjusted but the final draft is on the website. Lottery season is starting; first open house is December 4. Please encourage parents to attend an open house to be informed about Montessori. Siblings must register in the first lottery to be guaranteed a seat. There will be two additional open houses in January. The timeline for the lottery is much tighter this year; results should be given in February. MAPS testing starts again the week after Thanksgiving. Dibels will be in January.

Ms. Anna spoke with Maggie about the Montessori Discovery program; they will begin planning and will set the date for a Saturday in the spring (after 1<sup>st</sup> lottery results.) Ginger asked if it could be opened for current parents. Kristen said two sessions are planned, spring for new parents, fall for existing parents. Kristen asked about having consistency with the teachers presenting these programs. Bill said the demand exceeds the capacity we can support; we should consider allowing other teachers to join the 3 scheduled. This would allow more people to attend. Jackie asked if parent volunteers are needed, Ginger said PTO members assisted last year.

**Testing/Data Collection:** Ms. Anna said the process is ongoing; data collection will be complete at end of Thanksgiving break.

**Parent Education:**

Kristen found information on the AMS website called Materials Monday. Something like this could continue our parent education by emailing this information out. It includes a photo of Montessori materials with a description of its purpose in the classroom. Kristen asked about including a link to the website from the PTO eblast. Ginger said it could be a topic in the newsletter with a link to the PTO site or the AMS site. Kristen will email Jodi to include in the newsletter eblast. Grade level teachers could include information for this as well.

Bill discussed the Montessori Parent Advisory Group; they met a few weeks ago and have minutes to share. The group has representatives from all of the CMS Montessori schools. Their focus will be the expectation for certified Montessori teachers in every classroom and the potential Montessori secondary school. This group is willing to share best practices and ideas among different school communities. Next meeting in December will discuss parent education,

Bill plans on asking teachers from other schools to attend our Montessori Discovery program. All schools struggle with the same problem of parents not understanding the Montessori curriculum. The high school discussion is ongoing; there is strong interest from CMS administration though definite plans are still up in the air. Jackie asked about a full magnet option, Susan asked about a 7-12 school. Bill said there have not been real proposals regarding this; CMS is collecting data from a current survey on this topic.

Kristen mentioned the necessity for recruiting and licensing efforts. Jackie asked about the training program in Davidson. Ms. Moraglia said CMS is looking at this program; they would like to see the quality before hiring. Several of our teachers completed this program years ago in another location. Ms. Anna said moving the program resulted in changes in staff, certifications etc. This is the only program in the area other than Lander SC. Jackie suggested that current CMS teachers may be a good fit for Montessori training. Bill and Ms. Moraglia said that encourages administration to staff these schools with general education teachers prior to being trained. Ms. Anna believes it is very important to recruit experienced Montessori teachers. Ginger asked about conferences and recruiting. Ms. Moraglia said that she has been asking for recruiting at universities with Montessori training programs with no results. Candace asked about doing this on our own and not going through CMS. Ms. Moraglia said we know the expectations for lateral entry. Loyola, Xavier, Lander, and St. Kate's are the four university training programs; we have alumni from each here at PRM. Making contacts at these places can be the beginning of forming partnerships for recruiting. The biggest hurdle is obtaining NC licensure. Jackie suggested recruiting at conferences; perhaps bring posters, fliers, etc. Bill said he could bring this up at the December advocacy meeting as well.

**Grace and Courtesy:**

Car pool is a problem. Large number of car riders, one way traffic on Haven is needed at car pool hours.

**Next Meeting  
December 19, 2014  
7:30am**