

Garden Oaks Montessori SDMC Meeting 9-10-20
7:30am on ZOOM

The meeting commenced at 7:35 with the following members in attendance:

Mr. Jefferson, Ms. Eisenhauer, Mx. Saenz, Ms. Aasletten, Ms. Adekoya, Dr. William and Ms. Miniel. The meeting was recorded.

Dr. Pollock thanked everyone for their flexibility in rescheduling the meeting from Tuesday, Sept 8 to today, Sept 10. Sept 8th was the first day of school and very hectic!! Overall, virtual school has been positive with many factors to work out including technology connectivity and families who need supervision for their children so they can return to work. Dr. Pollock explained that there are some temporary options such as District Learning Centers for students who don't have access to a device and the Learning Sanctuaries that were announced last week. Both are intended to be temporary solutions to ensure that children have access to learning and also stay SAFE during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Ms. Eisenhauer shared that so far the experience is better than expected and that she and Ms. Hughes have made contact with 100% of their students.

Mx. Saenz shared how she has adjusted her instructions to be sensitive to the fact that some children are navigating the technology without an adult nearby.

Dr. Williams shared that she has heard of some people opening their homes to children in the neighborhood. She is the president of Shepherd Forest Civic Club an area partly zoned to Garden Oaks made up of 935 homes. They would like to support the school. Dr. Pollock said that teachers would like document cameras. Elke stated that she purchased one for about \$85 that works great!

"I think this link will work. This is the one I bought and I love it!"

https://www.amazon.com/OKIOCAM-Documents-Recording-Time-Lapse-Definition/dp/B0827V7X6T/ref=sr_1_4?crid=2YHTUAVMGA2P6&dchild=1&keywords=okiocam&qid=1599742714&s=electronics&srefix=okiocam%2Caps%2C186&sr=1-4

Dr. Williams stated that the Sam Houston State University Chapter of PDK is recruiting students as is the Houston Area Chapter which is led by Lidia Zadoptek. They have scholarship money available for U of H students and others pursuing education courses.

Ms. Miniel updated the committee on the teacher training programs at HCDE which is very busy! She rewrote the curriculum to address the changes in the teaching/learning environment due to COVID. They are working to ensure that new teachers are ready for the challenges ahead! HCDE also has a superintendent program that is accepting applications.

Ms. Aasletten shared that Middle School was at 100% attendance and that she is still in contact with the IMC accreditation committee.

Ms. Acosta reported that she has been busy supporting parents through the first few days! The admin team all were online the first day of school as "Help Line" support. We tried to help and could at least listen and refer if we didn't have the answer. The parents have been very supportive and working together for children's success in the online format!

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Dr. Pollock shared that the staff is starting each day with an optional GO Gratitude session from 8 – 8:15am. We are watching gratitude videos and acknowledging the contributions of our colleagues!

Ms. Fatimat Adekoya was present at the meeting. She is a graduate student at Fordham University in New York. She will be completing her internship virtually! Glad to have her at Garden Oaks!

Mr. Jefferson ended the meeting with news from his class which has been at 100% participation. His team has had the students working on Google presentations to tell all about themselves!

Dr. Pollock reminded the committee to look for the School Improvement Plan which will be sent out next week by email. Please review and return with any suggestions.

Our next meeting will resume on the regular schedule, the second Tuesday of October which is the 13th. We will meet at 7:30am so teachers can participate and then go to class! Thanks to everyone for being present and for supporting Garden Oaks!