

In attendance: Ms. Aasletten, Ms. Acosta, Dr. Pollock, Mr. Jefferson, Dr. Williams, Ms. Jamie Scott, Ms. Eisenhauer and Ms. Saenz

Pollock – Thank you for attending this week due to the change in schedule

Discussion around Montessori Training Requirement:

- Homeroom teachers required to be Montessori Credentialed since we transitioned to an all Montessori campus in 2011 with the MSAP grant. Few teachers are not, middle school is the biggest group. Important because we are a Montessori school and is credential part of the program for the campus staff. PTO offers underwriting. Friends of Montessori offers underwriting. Teachers are encouraged to apply for grants and scholarships. Spirit of Montessori and curriculum are very specific to Montessori, you cannot get that through in-house training. Need to have the authentically trained staff for students and families to have an authentic Montessori education. Waltrip and Wilson both require Montessori certified teachers. Recruitment via all avenues of Montessori and Public Montessori. Recruitment for those positions can begin once the staff has been offered a position at another school or steps down from their position. Per the district a campus cannot recruit until the position is considered open.
- AMS adolescent symposium was last week/ Sarasota Conference mentioned possible positions.
- Getting on board early is key per current staff who have gone through the training. Costs and time. requirements. This is rigorous training, similar to other state masters' degree certification.
- Certification is recognized worldwide. To offset costs - PDK DKG scholarships, PTO, FOM, David Santana Scholarship

Motion made: We require that homeroom teachers complete the Montessori training within the first 3 years at GO and to begin training the first year of employment.

- Second by Jamie Scott
- Vote: all present vote Aye. Motion carries unanimously.

Staffing Updates:

- Mr. Correa resigned; Ms. Tucker moved to ancillary with Mr. Brownley moved into her ELA position.
- Decrease in number of students enrolled, so may need to cut some positions. Budget analyst and SSO meeting this week. So far, no relief from State of Texas regarding funding of schools due to loss of enrollment.
- Question about staffing/budget increases if all students return in January. In Texas, membership snapshot window is last Friday in October to capture enrollment. Campus funding for entire school year based on this number. Regardless what happens after the snapshot, you will only have funding based on last Friday in October. (1000 students X attendance % of year before. Funding for 1000 students at 97% of year before)
- Hired 2 new teaching assistants Ms. Curtis (Steinhardt) finishing up her teaching degree, Ms. Mellieon (floating) working on master's degree in Child Psychology.
- Campus Academic Progress: Snapshots 10-15 questions window into student progress. Trending above District in Reading and slightly below in Math.

PTO Fundraiser:

- FunRun.com reemphasizing with teachers this week in PLC. Haley Jones, Jamie Scott.
- Currently at 14,000 of 50,000 goal. Dr. Pollock to get a Gatorade bath if meet goal!
- Reminders for PLC - Teachers share video. Money raised to support Montessori certification grants, Montessori materials for classrooms and technology.

Health and Safety:

- One teacher out sick now due to testing positive for COVID. She and her co-teachers are out as are all students in the two classes. There have been no further updates of anyone getting COVID. Both classes are on quarantine.
- COVID dashboard is not updated. We have had some students test positive but have not been on campus. Masks, social distancing, sanitizing. If we have more families return in Cycle 3 may need to reduce distance between students in class from 6' to 3'.

Patricia Williams: St. Stephen's gift drive is underway. Shoes, clothing, toys for each child of need. St. Stephen's for the past 9 years.

Mr. Jefferson: New member of the Jefferson family! Nicolas Fritz! Upper El is doing great as a team, working together as a team. Lots of collaboration.

Ms. Eisenhauer: Lots of collaboration, training going well. Hope to finish training on December 5. Ms. Hughes completed her first summer and looking forward to continuing training. Ms. Parison continuing her training as well.

Ms. Aasletten: Gifted and Talented testing K and 5th grade this week. Lots of accommodations. Been a positive experience this year. Attending Magnet Schools of America training next week. Working on accreditation with them as well. Every couple of years, the district reworks what a magnet is. This accreditation will secure Montessori as a magnet.

Ms. Acosta: Working on Holiday Heroes, Magnet Applications, Cycle 3 report.

Ms. Saenz: Virtual and partnering with Ms. Davis (both are 100% virtual) working with materials, what works across classrooms, both virtual and in person. Good personal challenge, 20 years teaching, 10 in Montessori, 6 in lower el.

If staff is returning to campus do they need to test negative? The district is not requiring at this time but quarantine measures including time of onset to return are being closely monitored. No symptoms allowed when returning. Work with school nurse to determine the timeline to return.

Siblings – how to support each other when children are quarantined, work plan support for those in person teachers.

Reminder: Academic Bootcamp is the first 2 days of Thanksgiving Break, all virtual. There will also be