



**Montessori Magnet School
Building Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2009**

Attendance:

Sue Hodom
Randy Churchill
Katie Light
Kim Springsteen
Ken Lein
Heather Buff
Josh Farrell
Guest: Linda Rudnick

Purpose of Today's Meeting:

- Develop BLT goals
- Report out on past discussions

Goal Development

1. Communication - Web Site

- Ms. Dolan should be getting website up within a week.
- Communications between BLT and MCC should improve with the advent of the website.
- Need BLT link on website so BLT actions can be disseminated to the M. community at large.
- BLT actions should be forwarded to Yahoo listserv.

2. Building Improvement Plan

- Template: According to Ms. Rudnick, BIP may be amended soon.
- Profile: Mr. Lein will describe major actions in last 3 years that have likely impacted upon student performance, such as M. programs - 3 years of Harcourt, NUA, etc., and Mr. Lein's recent arrival.
- ELA: BLT brainstormed a list of ideas to improve ELA, to wit:
 - Maintain/fully integrate M. philosophy into Best Teaching Practices
 - NUA
 - Project-based learning

- Enhance test wiseness and awareness/build student capacity to handle test demands
 - Test prep night - multiple nights
 - Test prep packages to all families
 - Include grade 2 parents
 - Mini workshops during school (assemblies)
 - Tutoring (transportation)
 - Literacy volunteers and other volunteers – training
 - Mentoring
 - Strengthen college student/M student relationships: St. Rose (Irene Rosenthal), UAlbany, Siena, etc.
 - Afterschool tutoring program
 - Continuing parent education, enhancing parental tools to augment ELA tools
 - Target individual needs
 - Personal outreach to families to determine obstacles to participation/correct them
 - Script for outreach - acceleration, not remediation
 - Team approach of vested reaching out to those who need to be more vested
 - Enrichment of upper achieving students
 - Afterschool programs incorporate enrichment features
 - Summer school incorporate maintenance/enrichment features into recreation framework
 - Field trips
 - Cross-grade peer-to-peer student “interaction”
 - Data collection/analysis
 - Individual and systemic (e.g., test items)
 - Content focus - review books on hand, book room, better use of leveled readers
 - Staff development
 - Tiered PD/PD articles
 - Teachers visit other teachers’ rooms
 - IRA
 - Familiarize grade 1-2 teachers with test
 - Common planning time for teachers
 - Engaging students to read (and to love it)
 - Encourage MCC to devote some percentage of events/time to learning
 - Expand Columbia celebrations school-wide/partner with Columbia for ice cream social
 - Lobby for piece of stimulus package
 - Bookmobile stops at M (every MCC event)
- In next BLT meeting, members will select items from above to be implemented, based on several factors, including: research, individual/systemic data analysis, viability, past experience, and staff/parent buy-in potential.

Mentoring Program

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters interviewed 4 of 5 M. children candidates last week - children must be at least 6 years old, but not in 5th grade.
- University of Albany students will commit to one visit per week for one year, starting in September 2009.

Random Acts of Kindness

- Discussion postponed.

Other

- Josh is exploring the possibility of having a legal program brought to M., in which the 5th grade class participates in a mock trial.

Next Meeting: April 6, 2009, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

- Determine ELA action plan
- Report out on past issues