



**Montessori Magnet School
Building Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2009**

Attendance:

Sue Hodom
Randy Churchill
Katie Light
Kim Springsteen
Ken Lein
Bridget Dolan
Natalie Aiello
Reesa Guarino
Heather Buff
Josh Farrell

Purpose of Today's Meeting:

- Program updates
- Continue work on building improvement plan: Organize ELA goals

Program Updates

1. Legal Lives
 - Mr. Farrell reported that Program Coordinator Bryan Cartwright is looking to expand the program across the district.
 - Mr. Lein will check with fifth-grade teachers to determine interest in the program.
2. Building Improvement Plan ELA:
 - BLT organized ELA goals using a tree map (please note, highlighted items appear for a second time):

Testing

- Enhance test wiseness and awareness, build student capacity to handle test demands
- Test prep night – multiple nights, in multiple locations
- Test prep packages to all families
- Include grade 2 parents
- Mini workshops during school (assemblies)
- Afterschool tutoring program
- Tutoring (transportation)

Instruction

- Maintain, fully integrate Montessori philosophy into Best Teaching Practices
- NUA
- Project-based learning

- Enrichment of upper-achieving students
- Enrichment of all instruction to make compelling for students
- Cross-grade peer-to-peer student interaction
- Content focus – review books on hand, book room, better use of leveled readers
- Engaging students to read (and to love it)
- Utilizing teacher assistance
- Field trips
- Build student capacity to handle test demands
- Script for outreach – acceleration, not remediation

Data

- Target individual needs
- Data collection/analysis
- Individual and systemic (e.g., test items)
- ELA folders – timely updates, so data can be analyzed and used

Partnership

- Literacy volunteers and other volunteers – training
- Mentoring
- Strengthen college student/Montessori student relationships
 - St. Rose (Irene Rosenthal), University at Albany, Siena, etc.
- Continuing parent education, enhancing parental tools to augment ELA tools
- Personal outreach to families to determine obstacles to participation
 - Correct them
- Script for outreach – acceleration, not remediation
- Team approach of those who are vested reaching out to those who need to be more vested
- Afterschool programs incorporate enrichment features
- Summer school – incorporate maintenance and enrichment features into recreation

framework

- Encourage MCC to devote some percentage of events and time to learning
- Expand Columbia celebrations school-wide; partner with Columbia for ice cream social
- Lobby for piece of stimulus package
- Bookmobile stops at Montessori (every MCC event)
- Albany Public Library

Project based learning

- Include grade 2 parents
- Tutoring (transportation)
- Field trips

Professional Development

- Staff development
- Tiered PD/PD articles
- Teachers visit other teachers' rooms

- IRA - International Reading Association
- Familiarize grade 1-2 teachers with test
- Common planning time for teachers

Misc comments during above:

1. To accomplish above, BLT can reach out to other individuals and groups
2. BLT will need to do some brainstorming and prioritizing for math (though perhaps a large percentage of items will duplicate above), but will wait until math program changes are determined
3. Can assessment material be systematically shared between grade-level teachers to reduce (unnecessary?) assessment time and maximize instruction time, and not be detrimental to students?
 - old index card system discussed
4. Can aggregate Montessori assessment time be reduced to maximize instruction time, and not be a detriment to students?
5. Should Montessori establish partnerships with arts organizations, such as Capital Rep or Center for Arts and Education?

In next BLT meeting, members will prioritize 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.

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

- Determine ELA action plan
- Report out on past issues