



School Governance Council Monthly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Time: 5:30PM – 7:00PM

Annie Fisher Montessori Magnet School (280 Plainfield Street)

Minutes

Members Present: E. Jimenez, F. Spaeth, K. Kilbourn, A. Clark, M. Schulman, M. Byroade, D. Duesing

- I. **Welcome** – the meeting was convened by Acting Chair A. Clark at 5:35pm
- II. **Approval of November minutes** – at the end of the meeting, the 11-15-16 minutes were approved by voice vote. F. Spaeth abstained.
- III. **Meeting norms** – tabled to January meeting
- IV. **Update on Dual Language program** – the following updated was conveyed by M. Schulman and E. Jimenez:
 - a. Marc met with Eva and Juan--PE will utilize basic vocabulary with all classes
 - b. Dejesus's students will create cards, She will speak Spanish during lunch service
 - c. Eva still looking for Spanish teaching students/tutors who may be able to come in and work with students
 - d. DuoLingo has a classroom function that will allow teachers to track students' progress
 - e. Maria Gonzalez (district ELL coach) is excited and may be able to help

- f. Marc will send letters to inform parents of program purposes

V. Update on SIP – provided by M. Schulman:

- a. Teachers have regular collaboration time and DataWise meetings
- b. Mindfulness team meeting
 - i. Previous trainings around LSCI and Restorative practice provide synergy with mindfulness work in classroom and separate room
 - ii. Marc will contact Breakthrough to schedule visit
- c. See SIP Study handout
 - i. Montessori doesn't have the same types and amount of assessments as a traditional school
 - ii. Different guides are at different stages of understanding and implementation of Eureka Math vocabulary
 - iii. Collaborative discussions will continue and there will be more reflection sheets after DataWise which will feed into professional development continuum
 - iv. Andrew--There are some answers here that might need to be translated to the general public.
 - v. Fred--Why is only one area addressed in question 4?
 - vi. Eva--Intervention? How does that work in Montessori? How does that work with student choice?
 - vii. Marc--we follow the SRBI. Identify students, progress monitoring, Model varies by student. Tier 2 student might receive an extra lesson with guide, push in support during work block, or pull out. Accreditors want 80-85% of students to move past manipulatives by upper elementary. Working with guides to have a "landscape" of choices to attack a problem. This can help with the MAP questions which are more abstract. This is one of the foci of the DataWise meetings.

Next steps: Discussion will continue at next meeting

VI. Budget

- a. Budget climate in Hartford is tougher from the perspective of a school. We have the opportunity to get ahead of things before the cuts come down the line.
- b. Are there ways that we can address certain shortfalls creatively?

- c. Marc--How can we gain money? Can we take in more students? 10-15 more students is \$100,000. Beth Bye is a grant writer and may be able to help. May start fundraisers through the school to add even a small amount of material to the materials budget. There are extra materials in the storage closet that can be used to replace those that are damaged or missing in the classroom. Practical life \$6000 a year. Cut down to every two weeks.
- d. Kristen--How much does it actually cost to educate our children?
- e. Marc--Lottery--We are number 5 in Hartford with 700 applicants so far. We need to ensure that the school maintains the aspects of the program and environment that bring the new students into the school.
- f. There may be changes in the way that the district can do school based budgeting coming
- g. Andrew--Last budget that I saw was in March? It would be great to have a working idea of what the budget is and can make suggestions
- h. Marc--we can look at a couple versions of the budget and see what happens with certain levels of cuts. Para Union renegotiated their contract, the school needs to give back \$11,000.
- i. Andrew--we have a desire to have a better sense of what is going on.

VII. Discussion: Principal Hiring Process, Bylaws

- a. OTM is willing to do the training for the hiring process on January 17.
- b. Marc--There will be an additional budget meeting at some point in the future
- c. Andrew--Minutes and agendas are up to date. Would like to see documents that we are discussing ahead of time.
- d. Kristen--Approached Colleen V. about being the community member. She will think about it and be in touch.
- e. Andrew--In touch with PTO. Trying to design open forum.
- f. Miriam--Sex Ed? Is it happening?
 - i. Marc and Dan will be meeting with Juan this week
 - ii. Parents will receive an update.

VIII. Other business – no other business discussed

IX. Adjourn - the meeting adjourned at 6:55pm