



JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Montessori Borealis Site Council



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Date and Time of Meeting: January 18, 2010, 5:45 pm

Members Present: Alicia Smith, Stephanie Allison, Barbara Thurston, Darla Madden, Adriana Bothelo, Debbie Chalmers, and Chris Trostel

Members Absent: Anastasia Tarmann, Laury Scandling

Guests Present: Lupita Alvarez, Barb Mecum (DZ Principal)

Routine Business

The minutes from the 12/14/09 meeting were approved with minor changes.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Issues related to Montessori and DZ relationship:

Barb Mecum (DZ principal) attended and was able to discuss issues and concerns regarding the relationship between the Montessori program and DZ. Montessori AMP students are officially enrolled in DZ for the purposes of determining state funding, and there were a number of questions about the financial implications of that arrangement.

AMP students are not used to determine DZ student count for the purposes of the district's allocation of teaching staff to DZ. The "non-personnel service" funds (a flat dollar amount per student used to cover costs of copying, phones, misc over which the school principal has discretion) for all Montessori students (including AMP) go to Harborview. Bussing is paid for by a totally separate fund of money, and is not allocated by school, but is simply a single "pot" of money used to cover transportation costs. The main services provided to the AMP program by DZ deal with the clerical functions of registration and attendance. DZ also provides the AMP program with textbooks (math only, at this point).

We do not receive any teaching or specialist services from DZ staff. Discipline and IEPs are handled by Sarah Marino (Yaakoosge principal) for AMP students and by Dave Stoltenberg (Harborview principal) for elementary students.

DZ is frustrated by the number of students who live in the DZ boundary area, but who attend other schools. A significant number have boundary exemptions to attend Floyd Dryden, and a disproportionate number of Montessori and JCCS students reside in the DZ boundary area. DZ has lost

exploratory teachers (teachers who teach subjects outside the core academic areas) due to declining enrollment, and is at risk of losing core academic teachers as well.

During the winter/spring budget preparation season, the district hires an actuary to predict the total number of students enrolled in the district. David Means (director of admin services) then allocates that total among schools. Teachers are assigned to schools based on David's estimated student count.

Enrollment:

Debbie's position is in jeopardy because the AMP PTR is low – we need a minimum of 33 students next year in order for the district to continue funding her position. Districtwide, enrollment is declining, so we are competing with the middle schools for a declining number of students. The AMP program brings some new students into the district who homeschooled for elementary school. Former homeschooling students may be a potential source of students we can target recruitment to.

A question has arisen about whether it's permitted to use outside money to pay for a teacher. SEAFOM has paid ½ of Debbie's salary for the last couple of years. Using outside money (from grants, private fundraising organizations, etc) to pay for teachers has been fairly widespread in the district in recent years, so a change in that policy would affect many schools/programs, not just Montessori.

We need to make some significant outreach and recruitment this year for 7th grade, as well as the usual outreach to potential 1st grade students. This is something we'll start on very soon.

Meal service:

A memo from David Means discussing the options available to the district for serving lunch at Marie Drake was handed out. Based on an initial review by the state Department of Health, the workroom that we are currently using for food distribution may not comply with department standards. Chris, Sarah Marino met with Jason Wiard from the Dept of Environmental Conservation to discuss the issue. We can probably get away with the current system this year, but need to make a recommendation by 3/1 about how to fix the system used to distribute for next year. It sounds like we will need to do our own research about what is and is not OK.

Alicia will head up a subcommittee to learn about regulations – can we use the current workroom with some minor changes to serve lunch? How does the cost of upgrading the room compare to the costs of alternatives? Darla will help, as will Chris.

For the next meeting

Future meetings: There will be a special site council meeting on 1/30 from 8:00 – 10:00 am to discuss the lottery. The February meeting has been moved to 2/7 at 5:45 to accommodate people's schedules.

The meeting ended at approximately 7:30 pm.