



# JUNEAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Montessori Borealis Site Council



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**Date and Time of Meeting:** December 14, 2009, 5:45 pm

**Members Present:** Dayna Weiler, Alicia Smith, Laury Scandling, Stephanie Allison, Barbara Thurston, Darla Madden, Anastasia Tarmann, and Cory Crossett

**Members Absent:**

**Guests Present:** Lupita Alvarez, Shauna Murray, Santé Lesh, Chuck Burham, Marc Matsil, Simi Matsil, Susan Erben

### **Routine Business**

The minutes from the 11/16/09 meeting were approved with minor changes.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

This meeting focused on lottery issues only. Adriana and Tory didn't attend at the suggestion of Stephanie, since lottery issues are of little concern to them.

Laury gave a brief outline of the theory and history behind the lottery.

Barbara ran through a sample lottery process, using a fictitious list of applicant children and applying the lottery rules step by step.

We then discussed differences between the lottery rules as written and the lottery rules as implemented by the district. The main difference appears to lie in the handling of diversity applicants, when the number of those applicants exceeds the number of targeted spots in the classroom.

The current computer program used to run the lottery gives a preference to all children meeting one or more diversity targets. This means that a preference may be given to children qualifying for a diversity preference even if the classroom has met or exceeded the district's targets for that criterion.

We expect that this situation will arise more and more frequently in the future, as the Montessori classrooms achieve more of the targets set by the district.

As written, and as discussed at the April 21, 2009 board meeting, the lottery rules only provide for a preference until the number of diversity students has reached the district's target. After that, any other kids with that diversity characteristic are placed in the remaining pool of applicants and are placed (or not) based on their randomly-generated lottery number.

The teachers are also very concerned about the new provision in the lottery rules which allows diversity students to be placed during a school year, regardless of whether the classroom is officially "full" (unless it is "too full", as determined by the assistant superintendent). Again, the intent was that this provision would only be used for students who qualify for diversity preferences in areas where the grade in question has not yet met the district's target. The district seems to be applying it to all candidates who qualify for a diversity preference, regardless of whether the target has not been met.

Barbara suggested addressing this issue by adding the word "under-represented" to the language on page 3 of the lottery rules to read "Through the year...**under-represented** diversity candidates immediately will be offered placement...". There was general agreement that such an addition would be helpful.

We discussed what changes could be made to the lottery rules by the administration and which needed to be approved by the board. Laury thought it was possible that non-substantive editorial type changes could be made by the administration, but any significant change would need to be approved by the board.

### **For the next meeting**

**Future meetings:** There will be a work session for parent and teacher input on the lottery on January 9, at 8:00 in the AMP classroom. The January site council meeting will be held on January 18, at 5:45pm

The meeting ended at approximately 7:30 pm.