

APPROVED



Sankofa Montessori

Minutes

January Academic Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday January 10, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Location

Please go to zoom.com and join meeting.

ID to join: 601 495 1069

Through a culturally responsive, child and family-centered Montessori education, Sankofa Montessori ensures that all of our students develop the knowledge, skill, and agency to have a life of purpose.

Committee Members Present

A. Allen-Thames (remote), E. Moore (remote), S. Harvey (remote)

Committee Members Absent

None

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Allen-Thames called a meeting of the Academic Excellence Committee of Sankofa Montessori to order on Wednesday Jan 10, 2024 at 7:08 PM.

C.

Approve Minutes

E. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from December Academic Committee Meeting on 12-13-23.

A. Allen-Thames seconded the motion.

The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Academic Excellence

A. Dashboard Planning

No further updates on dashboard planning.

B. Leadership Team's Corner

1. Enrollment Status

- School has lost 37 students
- #1 reason of withdrawal was transportation
- #2 reason of withdrawal was returning to homeschool
- 13 students will be starting school next week
- 9 applications completing
- End of March, enrollment numbers need to return to September FTE numbers
- Recruitment plans to improve enrollment include: launch campaign (Google ad, Facebook website); Staff persons calling/emailing perspective families; Billboards pending on Jonesboro Rd near city hall; Lunch n' learn events for executive directors of daycares

2. Staffing Updates- One staff member on a 3 week probation plan (Improvement plan,

supports with Academic lead, and 1:1 behavioral management coaching with Mr. Johnson, Coordinator of student culture); New male assistant hired, Mr. Tavian. Posting jobs and

interviewing for next year, intention to increase gender diversity with hiring

3. Updates on School Counselor- plans or preparation for psycho-educational testing

Contracting with local psychologist for psycho-educational testing

4. Updates on School Nurse- any issues to address

None

5. Updates on Status of Classrooms

- 75% of classrooms are normalized and rates of suspensions decreased dramatically

6. Updates on School Suspensions/Expulsions

- No in school suspensions
- Four out of school suspensions (all 1st years)

7. Updates on status of Standardized testing and Overview of assessments

completed- progress on academic plans to improve MAP scores for the Spring 2024

- Change from Minnesota Executive Functioning Scale (MEFS) to Social Emotional Learning Assessment (SEL). SEL will replace MEFS for the students.

Any updates/status of January MAP testing?- MAP testing starting with Math the week of 1/16, Reading the week of 1/22, and Makeup testing the week of 1/29

8. Miscellaneous items to discuss

- New school wide behavioral pilot program of grace and courtesy lessons with the Ghana class by student cultural coordinator, Mr. Johnson
- GA governor and legislature passed teacher retention supplement bonus, which 15 eligible staff received \$1000 each
- Results from state audit in September and any findings for Academics must be rectified by Feb. 20 according to State Charter School Performance Framework

C. Discussion of Special Education

- **Discuss student enrollment #/% of student population with suspected and/or identified special needs-** 100% in compliance. IEPs of 14 students currently up to date; six students pending on list
- **Updates on staffing with Special Needs-** None
- **Updates on classroom integration of special needs and updates on external supports for special needs (ie Speech, ABA, OT/PT)-** None
- **Updates on psycho-educational testing for students-** plans/progress- Seven completed psycho-educational evals to date

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Discussion on moving time of Academic Committee Meeting to second Wednesdays of the month from 2-3 pm EST. Motion passed.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Allen-Thames