APPROVED

Sankofa Montessori

Minutes

Academic Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday August 14, 2024 at 2:00 PM

Location
Meeting ID: 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)

Committee Members Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
S. Harvey (remote)

Guests Present
Rushanda Barnes (remote), Sankofa Parents (~12) (remote)

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 Aug 14, 2024 at 2:03 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

E. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from Academic Committee July Meeting on 07-10-24.
A. Allen-Thames seconded the motion.
None
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Leadership Team Updates

A. Leadership Team's Corner

1. **Enrollment status- current status**
   Total 164 students- 63 K, 49 1st, 26 2nd, 25 3rd
   Goal is 180, but currently no enrollment for K (waitlist)

2. **Personnel Updates**
   Hiring for a Part-Time Assistant, <19 hours (not hiring from AmeriCorps pool)
   Hiring for an additional SPED teacher

3. **Updates on school suspensions/expulsions**
   Will have data at next Academic meeting (collection ends Aug.30)

4. **MAP Data Updates- Plans and prep for Fall exam testing**
   Fall NWEA MAP testing begins next week; K students will have headphones (questions read
   aloud), while other grades 1-3 will read on their own- training teachers on administration of
   test- data updates at next meeting
   In the next couple of weeks, additional testing and screening will take place as follows:

   GKids for Kindergarten, SELweb, Reading Acceleration Pathway, MAP Reading Fluency as
   universal Dyslexia screening.

5. **Organizational Chart and Miscellaneous**
   No major changes except the additional personnel decisions for PT assistant and SPED
   teacher. Currently week #3 of school, going well with normalization of school in routines and

procedures. Teacher newsletters coming soon. #1 priority is Academics and meeting academic standards. Coming up for the school will be Federal monitoring and SCSC monitoring as the team prepares for those visits.

E. Special Education

B. Discussion of Special Education- presented by Mrs. Barnes

Discuss student enrollment #/% of student population with suspected and/or identified special needs- 35 students and 8 students identified for referral

Any updates on staffing for Special Needs and progress of Special Ed classroom- additional need to hire SPED teacher to service all classrooms in GenEd space

Any updates on classroom integration of special needs and updates on external supports for special needs (ie Speech, ABA, OT/PT)- None

Any updates on psycho-educational testing for students- plans/progress- None

F. Gifted Student Services

C. Discussion of Gifted Services- presented by Mrs. Barnes

Discuss student enrollment #/% of student population with suspected and/or identified for gifted services- 3 students currently identified; currently looking to contract with gifted teacher

Discuss plans for data tracking/allocating #/% of students for appropriate funding per student for special services or gifted services- For gifted services, students automatically qualify based on universal screener (NWEA MAP), teacher referral, and parent inquiry/application. To qualify, students receive certain scores based on 4 criteria (*Mental ability* with COGat, *Achievement* with NWEA MAP, *Creativity* with Torrance Test of Creative Thinking, and *Motivation.*

G. SY 24-25 & Public Question/Comment

Goals for SY24-25 not discussed and defer to September meeting.

Public Comment/Question
Note: The following is paraphrased, not exact quotes (for record).

From Ms. Apryl Forte:
Do teachers right now not meet need? What is the need for an additional SPED teacher?

Response (Mrs. Barnes): Need support in all 6 classes for Special ed support, so need the additional support for teachers from a SPED teacher.

II. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Allen-Thames