

APPROVED



# Sankofa Montessori

## Minutes

### Academic Committee Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Wednesday August 14, 2024 at 2:00 PM

#### **Location**

Meeting ID: 601 495 1069

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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.

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#### **Committee Members Present**

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

#### **Committee Members Absent**

*None*

#### **Guests Present**

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

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### **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