APPROVED

Sankofa Montessori

Minutes

Academic Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday November 13, 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
6- 8 parents in attendance (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 Nov 13, 2024 at 2:02 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

E. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from October Academic Committee Meeting on 10-23-24.
A. Allen-Thames seconded the motion.
Amended Oct minutes to reflect that no public comments.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Leadership Team Updates

A. Leadership Team's Corner (PPT presentation if applicable)

1. **Enrollment status**- current status & School Attendance
   Total Enrollment- 144 students K-56 1st-40 2nd-25 3rd-23
   11 withdrawals in August
   Student Attendance data- Decreased (2% from Sept to Oct) - due to illnesses. Not many unexcused absences. Will monitor as progress into flu season. 2nd grade with noted increase of 4% in daily attendance.
   Average daily attendance by grade: K-88.17%, 1st-91.56%, 2nd- 93.3%, and 3rd-86.7%
   Entire school average daily attendance: 89.86% (dec from Sept)
   Staff Attendance data- Absences dropped between Aug/Sept to Oct.
   Flight captains-10 absences. Teach assist- 7 absences Staff support- 3 absences
   Leadership- 3 absences

2. **Personnel Updates**- Updates on staffing and updates regarding professional development of staff.
   24 members: Flight captains-9 Co-captains-6 Staff support-4 Flight control- 5 (leadership team)
   Recruiting for part-time recruitment contractor; Offer for a gifted teacher (5 kids identified as gifted); Paternal leave coverage for discipline associate. 1:1 SPED Para:1
   Art teacher transitioned off team. Hired new K teacher (Ms. Sherice) for N.America classroom. Hiring for contracted ESOL teacher (3 interviews and offer to start on 12/2).

3. **Updates on school suspensions/expulsions by grade**
   Out of school suspensions: K-2, 1st-2, 2nd-1, 3rd- 2. Reasons included physical assault student/teacher, fighting, invasion of privacy
   No data on in school suspensions

4. **Standardized Testing and Screening Data Updates- Outcome data per grade for the following fall assessments from August:**
NWEA MAP (Math vs. Reading)- next MAP testing in December (will have makeup days)
SELweb- none
Reading Acceleration Pathway- none
GKIDS for K only-none
MAP Fluency Reading Test- Dyslexia screening with preliminary reporting showing significant signals for 2nd and 3rd grade students. Completion of data and summary to be shared in December Academic meeting.

5. **Discuss School-Parent (PTO**)- no updates.

6. **Organizational Chart and Miscellaneous**- School calendar for 2025-2026 is due to authorizer prior to Winter break in December. Clayton co. calendar for 25-26 was not released, so unable to incorporate into our school calendar. School plans to share break periods with team, other board committees, and "Snacks with Sarah" for input about break periods. Discussed the counties in metro Atlanta mostly differ over fall breaks. Changes noted is moving curriculum night to August and all school events to Saturdays based on parent feedback. Additional planned community activities for 25-26 school year with logistics TBD (Donuts w/Dad or Paternal figure, Grandparents Day, Muffins w/Mom or Maternal figure, Career Day, Kindness Month).

E. Special Education

B. Discussion of Special Education

• **Discuss student enrollment #/% of student population with suspected and/or identified special needs**- Total of 26 students with IEPs, an increase by 2 from prev month.
Total of 8 students with 504 plans
Total of 4 students with ESOL support
Total of 13 students with MTSS (increase of 5 from prev month)
Eligibility: 17 significant developmental delay; 5 autism; 21 w/ secondary speech impairment; 1 specific learning disability; 2 intellectual disability
• **Any updates on staffing for Special Needs and progress of Special Ed classroom-** SPED Para 1:1
• **Any updates on classroom integration of special needs and updates on external supports for special needs (ie Speech, ABA, OT/PT)-** Speech 23 students; 12 students in OT
• **Any updates on psycho-educational testing for students- plans/progress-** None

F. Gifted Student Services

C. Discussion of Gifted Services

Discuss student enrollment #/% of student population with suspected and/or identified
for gifted services.
Discuss plans for data tracking/allocating #/% of students for appropriate funding per
student for special services or gifted services
As noted above, in process of recruiting for a gifted teacher. 5 students currently meet gifted services.

G. SY 24-25 Goals

Any updates or changes to the short term and long term goals for this school year
Reiteration of Small Group Instruction, Students Receiving Feedback, and Classroom Management

Any outstanding items from last year's committee- updates on grants/funding/external
partnerships- No further updates

II. Public Comments/Questions

A. Public Comment: Limited to 2 minutes, name not recorded.

Parent question: Did anyone hire another SPED?
Response: In process of hiring gifted contractor (Part time) and ESOL teachers.

Parent question: What about parent events and what does that look like? Will parents come during the day or enter building?
Response: Working on PTO and staff to decide on best times of day and logistics for Parent events for the next calendar year. TBD.

III. 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 2:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Allen-Thames