

Denver Public Schools
Montclair School of Academics & Enrichment
Collaborative School Committee
November 5, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Academic Vision

'At Montclair School of Academics & Enrichment, all students are provided with a set of experiences that will allow them to become lifelong learners while mastering the content of grade level standards...'

Committee Members present: Shannon Hagerman, David Clayton, Anne Jacobs, Rae Harris, Tracy Edwards, Mary Felix, Emily Pulver, Helen Brady, Karen Lopez

1. Brief Welcome, Review of minutes, Private Donation –

Tom Gamel, a private donor, gave a donation of \$20,000 to support innovative activities at Montclair

- Mr. Gamel met with Shannon about a month ago and was impressed with what is going on at Montclair and **the fact that we have become an autonomous school**. Some of the funds will be used to support character education/problem solving skills for the students. Beginning this week, a problem solving/super hero curriculum developed by Diana Thompson, will work with a different grade levels each week.
- The funds will also provide additional professional development opportunities for teachers and support our enrichment activities throughout the year.
- **Mr. Gamel stated that these funds would not have been offered without autonomy.**

2. Bond Election Results

- The bond initiative was overwhelming passed on Nov. 4th
- Montclair may be earmarked for 2.5 million; part of which is for a Learning Landscape (playground renovation), roof replacement, sprinkler system and a possibility for modular units which is made possible through a certain branch of the bond for an ECE modular addition. The modular units would give the school at least two additional rooms; possibly to house 5th gr and bring ECE back to Montclair
Waiting for the district to contact the schools about the bond initiative information/funding and/or the modular units' option

3. ECE Program – no need to discuss options yet until we see what transpires with the modular units

4. Music Position – Interviewed two more applicants; one is a good possibility – working out issues with HR concerning hire as this is a retired teacher

- Option 1 - ok to hire as is from HR
- Option 2 - hire as a long-term substitute; in which the position can not go over 89 days for the year; may have to start position after winter break. Shannon will contact HR and post position as a long-term sub.
- Option 3 - back to drawing board

5. Autonomy – DCTA replied back to Shannon on Oct. 16th; and stated there is no need for waivers due to the new contract

- Shannon requested additional input and was told that DCTA needed more information about why we need these waivers – the same waivers were granted to Randolph and Manual so she's not sure why they require additional information
- Shannon met with a few other DPS schools and DPS personnel to discuss the Innovative Schools initiatives– Senate Bill 130, to see if it is a possibility for Montclair
- Shannon explained the details of the Senate Bill and how this would provide Montclair with the freedoms originally requested through autonomy
- The CSC stated their unanimous support and directed Shannon to continue pursuing innovation status

6. **Attendance data** – reviewed weekly and monthly attendance reports – avg. weekly attendance for the school is about 95%

- Will start weekly incentives soon; waiting for the classroom super seats to be completed
- Will speak with the school Social Worker about schedule an Oct. attendance assembly
- Looking to begin the Mile Hi Campaign - 5280 minutes of parents spending time with their students
 - Getting parents involved and active in their students education
 - Parents log time spent with their students throughout the year and they can become eligible for year-end incentives
 - Shannon is seeking the support of the Mayor to help kick-off the campaign – possibly on Nov. 17th

7. **Upcoming Events**

School Tours – Will offer a school tour for prospective parents one day each week in November through December.

Post flyers in different locations

May schedule four more tours in January

Teacher Awards – Provides positive recognition to our school

All teachers are worthy of some type of award

Do we want to have others preview these awards to determine which ones to submit teacher names for so that it is not all done by Shannon alone

Possibly have PTA involved in the previewing process

Mile High Teachers award – are chosen by their colleagues

8. **Q & A**

Parking issue – suggestions –

Limited parking to one side of the street

No parking signs were put up last year in front of building on Newport; need to restate this to parents

Crossing guards...parent volunteers - have any signed up?

Corner duty teachers – can they provide coverage at the end of the blocks

Put up saw horses on the east side of the street to make the other side of the street a one-way going south; Mr. Clayton will look into this option

Neon color signs that state “no parking” on the west side of the street

Will look into this further next meeting

9. **Next CSC meeting – Wednesday, December 3, 2008, 4:15 , Montclair Library**