

SDMC MSAP Grant Ad Hoc Meeting 4/22/2010

In attendance: Thomas Johanson*, Beverly Carson*, Cecilio Valladares*, Adriana Garcia, Connie Moyer*, Leslie Kilmer*, Susan Morris, JoAnn Woods, Susan Wethington, Juliana Bruce, Marie Pousson*, Moses Diaz, and Lindsey Pollock

The committee spent time reviewing and editing pages 50 and 51 of the proposed grant narrative. Suggestions/edits included:

Pg 50 – per email from Nathan Graf correction to K-8 (should be K-6).

Add word assessment to ...Texas standards

Delete second bullet noting expansion to middle school since first bullet reads K-6

Under the 5th bullet, the second arrow should be Expand instead of “will begin”. Those in attendance discussed ways in which the campus could promote healthy eating and cooking. One person stated that Sinclair had cooking as an ancillary option. Ms. Pollock stated that Tinsley Elementary had a healthy eating and cooking lab that she thought was underwritten by Whole Foods. She suggested that interested faculty visit the campus to see the beautiful facility and become acquainted with the program there. Ms. Pollock mentioned the hope of having a community garden.

Third arrow under the 5th bullet – add hydro to wind and solar. Ms. Morris stated that one could devise a system to incorporate rainwater runoff to generate movement of a hydro wheel such as the one envisioned by Ms. Carson.

Last arrow on page 50 addresses Montessori certification. Ms. Morris suggests that teachers' time be compensated for their attendance at the training to become certified Montessori teachers.

Page 51 – Ms. Moyer asked about ancillary teacher training. Discussion around ancillary options and the hope of having Music, Drama, Dance. Presently we have Literacy, Art, Library and PE. Perhaps Ms. Molina, Interventionist could incorporate music? Since teachers provide their own PE (and are required to assign a grade) perhaps that ancillary spot could go to one of the suggestions and use MPR stage for performances?

Remove 3rd arrow on page 51 which refers to middle school teachers.

Under the second bullet on page 51, Ms. Pousson suggested that Montessori material be purchased well in advance, perhaps December for the next year if storage space allows. This give plenty of time to unbox, assemble and get things ready for the new classroom.

Under the 4th bullet on pg 51 – Facilities upgrade and renovation.... Add Science Lab upgrade

Under Technology infusion, first arrow – facility renovation to include computers and software

3rd arrow – Ms. Woods asked about the need for laptops and commented that she would prefer updated computers in the classroom as opposed to laptops for teachers and assistants.

Committee agreed that the laptops would have to be really “good” ones to be worthwhile.

Suggestion to add Ipods and video cameras/Flip cameras to Robotics materials

Add UIL to the list of competitions

Ms. Kilmer asked about the plan for transition and the movement of students to fill classes.

Ms. Pollock attempted to diagram such movement. Ms. Pousson discussed her ideas of an implementation plan and the assignment of students from PK to separate classes to fill more than one class such as splitting between PK and K teachers. Garcia asked if her whole class would stay together. Ms. Morris stated that it would be most fair to divide current classes and assign students to beginning Montessori teachers instead of having new teachers try to implement the program with children who had no Montessori experience. Johanson talked about the culture/society of a group and the imperative of the group to work together. Ms. Pollock stated that such a plan to divide classroom communities would be in direct opposition to the sense of community and planning inherent in Montessori classrooms. Ms. Pousson discussed group dynamics and the fact that Ms. Cotner had been successful in her classroom. The group agreed to continue to seek ways to support new teachers and successful implementation plans.

Official committee members were given a copy of Montessori: Working Together

Next meeting will be scheduled for May.

*Denotes committee members