



Memorandum

To: Mr. Chamberlin and Members of the Board
From: Michael Bessette
Date: 10/01/10
Re: Principal's Report

Mr. Chamberlin and Members of the Board:

September was a very busy and productive month at MSS. The following are a few highlights of the month:

Goal Setting:

I am very proud of the efforts that the school has made to collaboratively plan for establishing goals and action plans to accompany them. The process began on opening staff day when the staff members and I brainstormed a list of goal areas that tied directly to the District goals. After doing so, the staff and I created items for thought under each category that were of significance to our work with children, families, and with our own community. The items were then voted on and narrowed down to become a manageable number of items that we could begin planning for.

Later, the goals and action plans were set to format and language that could be easily understood by both school and parents (borrowing a model used in Concord named "Goals on a Page.")

Our intention is to use these goals and action plans as steering points in our staff meetings, to discuss them at each meeting and to determine our progress in meeting them with regularity.

Additionally, we intend to publish the goals for parents and community on the school website, so that others may see openly what we hope to accomplish.

I have attached a copy of the goals document for you to review.

WIN (What I Need – name shamelessly borrowed from HMS) Block:

Maple Street has begun the year with a unique change to the regular schedule. Last year, our scheduling committee crafted a schedule that created an embedded window of time from 8:15 AM to 9:15 AM that affords teachers a weekly block of time in which they may provide differentiated instruction to students. This instruction may be remedial, reinforcing, or enrichment instruction and takes advantage of classroom teachers, specialists, and special educators as individuals who may work with children.

As an example of how this works at MSS, given a four week cycle, teachers review and pretest students on a standard or topic in their classes. Then in week one, while students are anchored by Instructional

Assistants with an activity that, had it not been provided in this fashion, would have occurred in the classroom for all students, the teachers and staff meet to review the data, make instructional groupings, and assign roles. During weeks two through four, small group targeted instruction occurs. Post testing is then completed in class and the cycle begins anew for the next month.

I am thrilled to report that this efficient use of time and resources is being positively embraced by the staff, and they used the first cycle to help provide mathematics review in support of NECAP assessments that are beginning this month.

This effort merges three key ideas – Professional Learning Communities, Data driven instruction, and Differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all learners.

MSA / Team of Tomorrow:

Team of Tomorrow (MSS Student Climate Team) leaders adult leaders Fran Burdette and Katherine Graham and I met with Bill Preble of Main Street Academix to finalize our plans for year two of the MSA / MSS partnership. We are excited by the opportunity to work with one another again, as year two promises to be a banner year for helping to move student led climate and culture forward.

Together, our team has crafted an action plan for the year that encompasses student, parent, and teacher involvement and activities in helping to continue to refine and enhance our school 's positive community. I look forward to sharing with you all the action plan when the last revisions are completed in the next two weeks.

Community Clubs:

Community Clubs are off and running this year. With activities such as Orienteering, Knitting, Capture the Flag etc. there is something for all children to select that peaks their interest. This year, MSS is hosting three Community Club Sessions of three-weeks, as opposed to only two four-week sessions as we did last year. We decided to increase the number of sessions this year, because of the positive impact we saw the program had on students and climate last year. The program is a tremendous way for students and teachers to engage with one another and open up new and positive relationships in school.

Upcoming Activities and Events in October:

- NECAP Testing
- Budget planning and preparation
- Author in Residence Visit – October 18th
- Team of Tomorrow NEC trip – October 27
- Fire Prevention Trailer visits MSS – October 28th
- Student Council Halloween Costume Contest – October 29th