

Director Report November 2015

“Micro” Moment:

It was the second week of Management 101, and the lesson was about problem-solving. Students were broken up into groups, and each group was given a “problem” to solve. After coming up with a plan, each group was to present their solution as a skit to everyone else.

One group was given this problem: “Your product isn’t selling well. What do you do?” The 5th grade group leader directed a skit where the solution was to turn off the lights and close up shop early since no one wanted to buy their product.

“Wait!” said a second grader in that group. “This is a horrible plan, and it doesn’t solve the problem! We need to SELL more product, not shut down! We either need to lower the price so more people will buy it, or we need to change the product somehow to make it more popular.” The group leader agreed, and they revised their skit.

This 2nd grader, who under normal circumstances probably would have gone along with whatever the “big kids” suggested, had the courage to speak up and express his dissatisfaction with the “plan” made by his 4th and 5th grade classmates. He has learned that at MACS, all students have Voice and Choice, no matter how young!

Upcoming at MACS:

Staff have completed the October Parent Teacher Conferences which occurred during the last week in October (10/26-10/20). We had 96% parent attendance!

Administration continues to work with staff on developing Tier 2 Response to Intervention (RTI) programming. Those students who we have identified as working one or more grade levels behind have been getting additional instruction to help close the gap though,. We will be progress monitoring those students more frequently to ensure yearly adequate growth is being made. We plan to test every 6-8 weeks with the next round of testing occurring after the thanksgiving break. All mid year assessments for all students will happen in January.

Staff had their first initial training in ALMA SIS (student information system) at our faculty meeting from 8am-9am on October 15th. Soon we will be contacting parents with a profile log-in that will allow them to select a text or robo call option which will be used for emergency announcements, snow delays and cancellations. Parents will also access their student's report card electronically through their profile page on ALMA. Report cards are planned to be issued on December 18th.

Band has started! We excited to announce that the after school band club kicked off this week and will run weekly through the spring. A big thank you to our music teacher Ms.Jackson for making this possible! At this time, band is a self sustaining club and does not come out of the school operating budget.

We would also like to give a big warm welcome to Sonya MacMillian who is our new art teacher! Sonya is replacing Lisa Greenleaf who resigned last month.Sonya has also volunteered to be on our substitute list... and has already been called upon to sub!

Lastly, our guidance counselor, Kate Dagianis, has been holding weekly guidance lessons with each class. She is using the Social Thinking curriculum by Michelle Garcia Winner and is revered by any educators in its ability to help teach students about the “hidden” social cues students face day to day. We are thrilled to be offering this whole school!

MicroSociety Update:

We have been busy! Student elections have occurred, judges appointed, currency selected and business management 101 has concluded. Manager interviews have been taking place this week and the job fair is scheduled for this Friday. Students can not wait to start working in their ventures and agencies!

We still need to pick a date for a Micro Night in February. Micro Night allows parents an opportunity to get a first hand experience of what their children have been doing during Micro Block and provides a fundraising opportunity for the school as well. More information is forthcoming.

On November 10th, we held a town meeting in celebration of Veterans Day. The assembly was led by some of our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students who read short passages, poems, personal stories, and appreciation letters about the meaning of Veterans Day. We had a sing-along with some patriotic songs, discussed our “citizenship trait” of the month, appreciation, and ended with the roll-out of our canned food drive to support local families in need. It will be a competition among classes and as a whole school we will try to fill Mrs. Rubin’s “office” space with the non-perishables by the end of the month!

Friends of MACS Update:

Thanks to this hardworking group of volunteers! They have truly hit the ground running!

The FOM group started the year with a Yankee Candle fundraiser. They made \$1689.00 for the school to be put towards the playground fund (this is included in the \$3700). Thank you to all who purchased and sold the goods. Wow!

Next, they put on a Book Fair. Kids LOVE a book fair! And what a nice addition to the ice cream social at our ribbon cutting. We have decided to take the profit from the book fair in the form of

books. MACS can get 60% of sales in books versus 25% of sales in the form of checks. We will take the books! Thank you!

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony exceeded our expectations thanks to the support of our MACS community. The kids are still talking about the humongous ice cream sundaes! I enjoyed being a “ice cream scooping machine” and seeing all the parents, teachers and boards hard work come together in such a grand celebration. Who could ask for more?!

Next up, the December 12th Pancake Breakfast. I met today with the city health department and our breakfast chair will be submitting our temporary health certificate so we can hold the event. Mark your calendars! More details around time and pricing will be announced shortly.

The next FOM meeting is set for December 2nd at 7pm. I am working with Amy LeBlanc to get on the agenda. As the year and group meetings have progressed, it has become evident that there are two much needed functions for this group to provide: 1) community building and events and 2) fundraising/revenue. I will be presenting at the next FOM's meeting to speak about these two topics and explain that our operating budget depends on revenue generated from this group. In the FY16 school year, we have 10K budgeted towards operating expenses. Right now the FOM's group has been turning its efforts towards a playground. This does not include the 10K. Amy L and I will be recommending there be two sub committees for the FOM's groups with two chairpersons. One to oversee community based events and playground efforts and the other to oversee the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund group will be in charge of efforts to raise money in support of the operating budget and the community based group will support events and activities within the community.

Building / School Budget Status

Through fundraising efforts and the GoFund Me account, we have approximately \$3700 remaining to go towards the playground (\$1000 was already taken for the asphalt). Currently, the special mulch, digging of 12 inch base and fencing will cost about \$9000. That is \$5,300 needed to finish the playground.

I do not have a firm move in date for downstairs. They are currently working on installing the flooring. The primer is up on the walls and finish work is happening. I am hoping we are about 2 weeks out from finishing the build out portion of 591!

Below is a breakdown on the school start-up spending to date based on the 75K approved in July, the 10K building readiness funds, the 10K curriculum funds and the 15K Fidelity Grant:

TextBooks- (# 1100-640): 25K allocated in July plus 10K allocated in late October, \$19,619.26 spent, balance: \$15,380.74 .

(In essence, we did not need the additional 10K. There was a request made to the board for more money due to being put on a “budget freeze” prior to the 25K being spent, for various reasons. But after an accounting of the full approved monies and what has been spent to date, we can now state there is 10K out of the 35K that can be potentially be reallocated somewhere else.)

Furniture -(#1100-733): 25K allocated, \$18935.00 spent, balance: \$6065.00

General Supplies- (#1100-610): \$7500 allocated, \$5094.00 spent, balance: \$2,406

Computers- (#1100-733): 15K allocated, \$16,775 spent , balance: -\$1775
(overage on line approved by Chair and Treasurer- not sure where balance is coming from)

Micro Supplies- (#1100-610): \$2500 allocated, \$0 spent, balance: \$2500

Building Readiness (#2620-431): 10K allocated, \$8042.20 used, balance: \$1957.80

Fidelity Grant: 15K allocated, \$12,617.36 spent, balance: \$2,382.64

So out of the \$110,000 approved grants and start up funds we have a balance of \$28,917.18.

I would request that the board review finances and confirm if these monies, minus the surplus are still available as some of this money will be needed to complete the downstairs move in.

Grants:

I am happy to announce that Susannah reached out to Walmart who informed us on Tuesday that we will be granted \$2250 to be used for Micro Supplies! Thanks Walmart and Susannah!

Again, we are so thankful to the MACS community for all their support and efforts each and everyday!

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Bottomley, Director