

Nov 27, 2023 | 📅 23-24 CSC Nov Meeting

Attendees: ADAM SMITH Andrea Renteria Ann Stiles Athena Alva ELSA D'ANGELO Bechler, Eileen
FERNANDA MANSFIELD John Casey Spooner Leah Charney MARIA CASTRO ALVAREZ
Robert F. Rosenthal

Notes

Opening - warm welcomes - good things from Thanksgiving break

Budget Update -

- Projected carry forward \$94,631
- Current reserves - \$500,000 (always try to keep a hefty amount in reserves so we can avoid RIB in the Fall)
- \$60,000 in tiered support (ESSR funding) - has to be used to push our UIP, push school achievement. Has to be used through CDC approved programming.
- External School review - \$20,000
- Tech Bonds (purchasing technology) - \$14,850 that is good through Dec 2024
- Approx \$60,000 for school beautification projects

Prices on Positions

- Teacher - \$108,000 (projected \$118,00 next year)
- Paraprofessional - \$43,000

Conversations with the MLE department about getting funding for a first grade teacher - they said no, because of the money that we have in reserves. The reserve money is planned for. Asked budgeting if we fund the teacher from reserves, would they support us in our plan - they were noncommittal.

The biggest positive feedback from the External school review was DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) was a strength of our school. A safe, supportive environment. Our coaching system.

Area to keep working - Working on Rigor - Higher level questioning

We were awarded \$20,000 and it needs to go to programs that are focused on their feedback. ILT has been looking into programs that will help teachers increase the rigor in our school.

The CDE website provides options, we reach out to them, and they let us know what they can provide for us with the funds that we have.

- <https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/cde-advisory-list-of-providers>
 - ELA rigor and instruction
 - Math instruction
 - Strategies for improving quality of rigor and instruction
- CSC reiterated the importance of a flexible program that would work with ELA-E and ELA-S, as well as traditional and Montessori instruction

Technology

- A couple of teachers need teacher computers
- Some classrooms need Newline boards, or need replacement boards
- Most likely we will use the majority of that money this year

New program for K - 5th grade - Tutored by Teachers - randomly selected students (about half of each class)

New Budget Limit is 4 FTE - You can't keep as much carryforward in your budget that you'd like. You can only keep \$118,000 x 4 in your carryforward.

This year we have spent the biggest chunk of our carryforward on Capturing Kids Hearts (CKH) This year it is \$19,250. Now that we have the gist of it, we may be able to back off the supports.

Big Plan - Ms. Renteria is rolling out her plan

- Open another lower Montessori program for next year (more of a necessity than a want)
- Currently we have Primary Montessori (8 Kinder in group #1 and 13 Kinder in group #2)
- Lower Montessori - (19 K, 12 1st, 17 2nd) Ms. Alexis has 29 students (1st and 2nd)
- Upper Montessori - 10 3rd, 5 4th, 6 5th)
- Ideally, in a regular Lower Montessori, we would have 1st - 3rd. Since we didn't have 6th, 3rd graders went to Upper M.
- Next year, that won't be an option because the 17 2nd graders move up next year, Upper M will have 38 students.
- Ideal situation is 3 grades with 10 students in each grade.
- The ideal situation is that Upper M will have the smallest numbers because students leave and can't start that late in school.
- There should be the most students in the Primary Montessori. Ideally 3 Primary classes feed into 2 Lower Montessori classes, which feed into 1 Upper Montessori.
- Ms. Renteria is proposing that we start to hire for the new Primary Montessori this year because it takes a long time to hire and we can get them for \$10,000 less this year than next year when the FTE becomes more expensive.
- Last year they wanted to close one of our ECE classrooms because of numbers. They gave us this year and we are not at capacity. We have 8 3 year olds on our waitlist. Each classroom has a capacity of 20 in traditional and 30 in Montessori.
- We asked if we could convert one of our traditional ECE to a Montessori Primary in order to support both the Montessori and traditional ECE classes. They told us that if we make that change, they won't have to take away one of our traditional ECE classes.
- We would keep an ELA-E and ELA-S ECE class and then 3 Primary Montessori classes.
- Questions about space for an additional classroom (yes, we do) and whether our current teachers are qualified to teach Montessori (they can be). We will need to hire a new teacher for our second Lower Montessori class.
- Adding another Montessori class is very expensive -\$118,000 for the teacher, \$43,000 for a para, \$18,000 for two teachers to receive training, \$50,000 for a classroom set of materials x 2 classes. Total for a new class is \$278,000. We have the money to do it now, but we may be able to apply for some grants as well.
- Every year we have fees that we pay for that come out of carryforward (CKH, substitutes, Renaissance, materials). We have a 1st grade ELA - S position posted, but we haven't had a high quality candidate yet.
- , Mestres (K/1st) - 38, Stiles/Ramirez (1st/2nd) - 32, Carcamo (3) - 23, Mansfield (4) - 23, Lopez (5) - 22,
- We have a newcomer class being taught by a daily substitute, or our restorative justice coordinator, which works now, but is not ideal. We have taken the students who need the most basic support (letters, numbers) and have created an ELD with centers that have Spanish programs. Not equitable and not ideal.
- What we want is a 1st grade ELA- S teacher and a para - \$108,000 + \$43,000 = \$151,000 (if we do hire someone, they will be prorated for the year so more like half of that).
- CSC approves Andrea's proposed changes with the hopes that we will qualify for some grants.

Action items

- Next meeting Monday, January 8th at 4:00

