

MC² Charter School Board Meeting
November 20th, 2012, 12-2 p.m.

Present in Manchester: Steve Coughlan, Kim Carter, Biddy Irwin, Darlene Simmons, Jayna Hooper

Agenda Review: no changes

Approval of minutes. October minutes pending.

School Status:

45 students. Some students considered truant. Four students have interviewed (all interviews are scheduled Mon., Wed., Fri.); 8 students total scheduled for interviews. One prospective student has an expressed interest in music: MC2's location may be a good fit because of its proximity to the Manchester School of Music. A good percentage of students coming from Central because it is so crowded. *Lots* of calls for next year. There is "certainly continued interest" expressed by the Manchester community for MC2's programming.

We are projected to end up with around 60 students for the 2012-2013 school year. Many students are currently on behavior plans. A number of students have had to leave MC2 through due process.

Mental health issues of students and parents is a big issue -- in Manchester in general. CHINS has been cut; services have been cut; public classroom sizes are up to 40. Issues at MC2: anxiety, stress, mental health, family issues. Many students at MC2 have come to get away from kids who have also come for similar reasons.

Staff Status:

Teachers need professional development. PD is scheduled for Wed., Nov. 21st (no school). There are six staff members, certified in Science, Social Studies, English and ELL. Currently interviewing for an administrative assistant. Helene fulfills a need as MC2's homeless liaison/community outreach, as well as paraprofessional. Will Manchester school district fund para position, because we need someone to support IEPS. (Manchester has withdrawn almost all services and said we don't need them because we're too small.)

We are looking for someone to become the School Leader. Kim's job will become coaching; Nate will take on increased responsibility, while increases are made in the capacities of staff. Kelsey, IT specialist, has a deep knowledge of MC2 and coaches kids to make better choices. All kids are assigned to their own computer. Elizabeth comes once a week and continues to monitor End of Days (EODs). Elizabeth reports that MC2 is currently "toward the end of the second year" in terms of its development. This is positive, as it is also to be remembered that 10 years after a "start up", the school is still considered a baby.

Working on consistency among staff and policy implementation. More kids are starting to become more involved in problem solving vs. finger pointing. There is room for negotiation, but *first* students must listen to an adult.

Facility:

Not having our own facility is problematic. It is difficult to be "quiet in the hallways." Students and staff trying their best to "leave no trace" of food, beverages, wrappers, etc. Nothing can be posted on walls, which is particularly difficult for kids who would benefit from visual cues. Space is difficult to support kids who are dealing with anxiety. Everything is videotaped -- good and bad.

Looking into two facilities: (1) 60 Rogers St. -- monthly rent would increase substantially from current location at BGC. (2) Anagnost property on Elm St. -- moving slowly, but Anagnost associates have told us they will do all fit-out and renovation. Anagnost has closed on two buildings on Elm Street; engineers will be looking at what they need to do to each.

Newport:

Meeting is scheduled for Dec. 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Newport Montessori School. Parents and community members will be present. Initial grade levels and process for community input to be discussed. Would MC2 entertain a secondary level? Montessori (K-8) may be in a position to help with space. Would secondary level meet needs of Newport families beyond those of the Montessori community? Would a secondary level also gain draw from New London, Springfield, Grantham, Goshen communities?

Student Report:

Fall Forum, sponsored by the Coalition of Essential Schools, Providence, Rhode Island, weekend of Nov. 8th. Seven MC2 students and 3 teachers attended. The students fully participated and had the opportunity to share about the purpose of what's expected of them and structures of MC2. They were all very articulate and clear. The students took home tips on "How to Start a Movement" -- taking on issues and listing allies and collaborators. Two movements that the students would like to start at MC2 are groups against bullying and "stopping foul language." MC2 is at a tipping point, where the students are "starting to realize their reasons for being here, which are *aspirations*, not *desperations*."

Next Agenda Item: Financials:

Balance Sheet and the Profits and Loss report, both current through November 15, were reviewed. Title I monies from this year will not come until next Oct./Nov. (2013). Kim is working with the Business Manager on developing an up-to-date budget. A close eye will be kept on staff to student ratio. The auditor's review will be presented to the board at the next meeting. MC2 may look into application for a 1% bridge loan to get through summer, if necessary. The loan is available through a legitimate non-profit to help charter schools with funding.

Next Agenda Item: Policies:

Trustee Absentee policy and Admissions policy approved by board. Student Assessment Use; Record Retention (for [a] student and [b] financials); Whistleblower policies were briefed. Steve will be looking at larger School Board Association record policy in order to finalize MC2 policies.

Future Meeting Dates:

Next meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 18th, 10 to 12 at B and G Club, Manchester.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM

Tour of potential Rogers Street location followed meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayna Hooper and Virginia O'Brien Irwin