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Superintendent Report
04/23/2024

SAFETY

Gates and all perimeter fencing have been installed. Fencing and gates around the orchard are complete, but gates must be configured to follow an outdoor classroom's safety and security measurements.

The raceway for the cabling to the gates for card reader access has been installed. Cothrons Safe and Lock will install the cabling, adjust gates for locking mechanisms, and install card readers.

The school conducted weekly security audits of the exterior doors. Evacuation, shelter-in-place, and bad weather drills were conducted in April.

ACADEMIC UPDATE

The school completed the first round of STAAR assessments last week in Reading. These results will not be available until mid-June. I would like to thank Roberta Givens, the School Improvement Coordinator, the guides, assistants, and administrators for the excellent work in completing this first round of assessments. I also want to thank all of the volunteers who assisted the school with field trips for students who did not take the assessments. This is very important to the school as it frees up space for all students to receive the required accommodations during the assessments.

For the May Coffee with Dr. Bruce, Roberta Givens, School Improvement Coordinator will be detailing the Goodwater Dashboard.

I would like to thank our staff for the tremendous support this month as we have had staff absences and everyone assisted in providing breaks for staff. I want to thank all of our parent volunteers who also assisted in the school in support of our staff. Our attendance from a student perspective was impacted by student illness. We appreciate our parents for the care they provided their children during this time to help shorten how long students were not in school.

FINANCE

The budget for the 2024-2025 school year is currently in progress. As everyone knows there is no additional funding for public schools in Texas. The next opportunity for additional funding will occur in the next legislative session, which begins in January 2025. Additional funding could be available in the Fall of 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year. This situation is not unique to Goodwater Montessori School. Many school districts across the state are doing exactly what we are doing to make sure we provide the best environment for the students.

Keeping our enrollment at capacity and increasing attendance from 92% to 94% are key areas to assist with funding in 2024-2025. For the 2023-2024 school year so far we have had 2,000 excused absences, and 1,077 unexcused absences, which at \$57 per day average attendance in lost funding amounts to \$175,389 in missed revenue. We continue to focus on other revenue streams, such as grants, marketing strategies, and business partnerships to assist us in obtaining additional funds for our school. The school is analyzing each budget line to determine how to allocate funds to the maximum degree for the 2024-2025 school year. We continue to assess academic performance at each grade level. This school has improved in very difficult times. We are assessing how to provide additional support for our Guides and Assistants as we know how critical they are to the success of the school.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024-2025

The Administration proposed three calendar scenarios for the guides for the school year 2024-2025 school year. The guides reviewed and Option 3 was selected by staff and is submitted tonight for board approval. The proposed calendar provides for the meeting minimum minutes of 75,600 required by the state. The calendar provides for the Fall Break and the same school day as the 2023-2024 school year (7:55 am - 3:25 pm).

Finally, I would like to share my thoughts about Goodwater Montessori School and its contributions to our educational community over the last 5 years. Guides, Assistants, and support staff have worked diligently with tremendous success for students throughout this time. Additionally, their hard work behind the scenes has moved students forward despite unprecedented challenges.

The first year this school was opened it failed the STAAR assessment. Through the heroic efforts of all staff, the school passed in the second year. The school went to an overall rating of 82 after the pandemic. In 2022, Goodwater successfully renewed its charter for ten years. The effort to achieve this is no small accomplishment and should be celebrated. Financial Integrity has been consistently successful each year since the school has been open. Although the school dropped after a new state assessment was put into place in 2023, there has been tremendous focus on continuous improvement. Goodwater has enhanced lives and has provided opportunities for students who may have struggled at other schools but were able to flourish here. It should be noted that our students who have gone on to high school have done well. Our educators are all working to provide an environment that is unique to our school and one that serves students who may have struggled in a typical ISD. The focus of our school values has provided a safe place for numerous students who thrive in the Montessori classroom. While not all our guides are Montessori trained, each is working to provide a Montessori culture and a learning environment that empowers students. Montessori training is happening through the daily experiences of professionals who are dedicated to the Montessori ideology.

I believe I can say for all of us that we will continue to face challenges head-on and our commitment to serve will keep us moving forward, even if one step at a time. Dr. Montessori adapted to a very difficult environment when she started many years ago in Italy. She did not give up, she persevered, and she always remained dedicated to the mission of meeting students where they are.

Goodwater has provided each student with a classroom and an educator that supports a child's natural sense of love for learning and encourages a feeling of empowerment in seeking one's full potential even at a very young age. Having spent many years in traditional classrooms, I can tell you this school culture experience for children is unique, and it provides a lifelong love for learning.

This concludes my report.

Kindest Regards,
Dr. Bruce