

## **HOPES AND CONCERNS EXERCISE FROM 10-4-2017 MONTESSORI PLANNING GROUP MEETING**

### **HOPES:**

- The incorporation of a student survey and student input in the planning process
- Growing the Montessori program and assure it maintains its diversity and is fully accessible to all low-income families at primary level
- The Montessori program will flourish due to our careful reflection
- We see the value of having a leader vested in the Montessori philosophy to lead the future Montessori school
- My hope is that in 3 years we have a Montessori program that is able to thoroughly implement the Montessori philosophy throughout the child's entire school experience—in the hallways, in the classrooms, in the library, in specials—with a staff that is all on board, everyone from the custodians to the principal.
- My hope is that we can support and educate and thus grow the community of engaged Montessori parents and teachers
- That the program is very authentic from extended day people to specials teachers (ESOL, SPED, Art, Music, etc.), from the bottom-up and top-down
- That we have a Montessori only and specific coordinator (not shared with VPI)
- Every family that wants a public Montessori experience has access to it
- Montessori will be in one school (1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)
- My hope for Montessori is it to enjoy its 80th year in Arlington Public Schools as a robust program serving a diverse community of active learners from pre-K through high school
- We aren't starting with the bigger picture in mind. What's the goal of Montessori in Arlington? How do we want to keep the middle school program as a "transition-out" type program? Do we want just K-8 and stop there? Answering these questions will help identify numbers/grade levels at Henry.
- The "best" Montessori program in the public sector
- A collaborative process that thinks "win-win"
- Less testing and more working with Montessori materials

### **CONCERNS:**

- Insufficient and/or poor outcomes data and the impact that this data has on the Montessori reputation is a concern
- Being able to hire enough Montessori qualified teachers as the program grows
- That there is enough space for everyone who wants in
- I am concerned that Montessori will be a pawn in APS ongoing moving of students/programs to address capacity or neighborhood issues
- I'm happy Arlington is finally hosting Montessori focused meetings and conversations, often times it feels like we are left in the dark
- My concern is that we miss the opportunity to truly develop a vision for the Montessori program now
- Program is not just "lifted" from Drew and put into Patrick Henry. Take this opportunity to make needed improvements.
- Montessori will become overcrowded quickly due to its success and popularity
- Students' input would not be considered (particularly at upper elem. and middle school ages)
- Adding 6<sup>th</sup> grade into Montessori (at the Henry site)
- Concern that numbers alone, and not program quality, will drive decisions