

Director's Report
Serendipity Center
March 2020

Enrollment Update

2019-2020 Projections Reflecting 3/6/20	
Currently enrolled	100
Start date set	5
Admissions in process	2
Possible referrals (districts in discussion with Serendipity Admissions or parents requesting a tour)	
Wait List	2
Placements at risk	0
Likely Enrollment	107
Budgeted annual average enrollment:	101

Program Update:

Enrollment is still slightly below budget. We do have enough students with start dates set to take us well above our budgeted enrollment, with others still in process.

Our staffing challenges continue. Hiring educators and key support mid-year is a challenge, as many prospects we are interviewing are currently in position, or finishing long term sub assignment. We are attending the Oregon professional Educators Fair early next month, and this has proven to be a great source of candidates for us in the past.

This year has not been without its challenges. For example, our much-needed improvements to our IT systems have resulted in some challenges in administering student assessments due to tech issues uncovered in the upgrades. We have had to be nimble, switching to paper copies of assessment. This has understandably delayed compilation of assessment data.

In comparing overall number of physical managements utilized compared to the same time last year, we see a marked overall reduction of use of physical management (down by 46.12%) throughout the program. Most of this change is because of less overall physical management utilization for non-high-utilization students in the lower school program, with a total lower school reduction in utilization of -51.11%; including a -67.28% reduction among non-high-utilization lower school students. The overall upper school program had an increase of utilization of physical management of +30.60%, but with the entirety of the increase accounting to a single high-utilization student who is new to the program; and a reduction of -33.3% use of

physical management in the upper school among non-high-utilization students; and overall usage of physical management in the upper school program remains low.

As I am sure you are all aware, the 2019-2020 flu season has been complicated by recent global reports of a novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person when in close contact with an infected person exhibiting symptoms. Common symptoms of COVID-19 in an infected person include a fever, cough, and shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing.

Here is what we are asking of all staff:

- In addition to regular cleaning routines, we are asking school staff to disinfect surfaces (desks, door knobs, light switches, etc.) multiple times daily with red tops (please use gloves).
- We are encouraging staff who are ill or exhibiting symptoms of the flu to stay home.
- Staff are asked to wash their hands whenever possible (with soap and warm water), and to use hand sanitizer when available, and when handwashing is not immediately an option.
- Lastly, staff are being asked to teach and model coughing and sneezing into elbows (not hands) or a tissue, and do not touch nose, eyes, mouths with unwashed hands.

We are closely monitoring guidance from the Oregon Health Authority, and local health departments for guidance around protective measures, closures, or any other tactics to keep our staff and students safe.

Right now, the guidance is to teach and promote good and frequent handwashing, and proper coughing and sneezing etiquette, and sanitize surfaces and frequently touched items as often as possible. We will continue to stress this and respond as guidance changes.

Finance Committee Update

The Finance Committee met on March 4th to review and accept the January 2020 financial statements. These are summarized below:

Net earnings for January 2020	\$22,132
Net earnings for January 2019	(\$5,474)
Budgeted net earnings for January 2020	\$53,318
Net earnings year-to-date 2020	(\$117,209)
Net earnings year-to-date 2019	\$69,325
Budgeted net earnings year-to-date 2020	(\$183,131)

The Finance Committee discussed a few key items of note:

Investment Policy: The finance committee discussed implementing a policy that sets criteria for investing operating cash or cash equivalents. The finance committee recommended creating a policy

that was intentionally general for the purpose of flexibility. The finance committee suggests that investments should be a quarterly conversation that would allow for responsiveness to market conditions and Serendipity's financial capabilities. FC would make recommendations to the BOD by November of each year for the BOD to approve, and Serendipity's Finance Manager would execute the decision. Our Treasurer will present this new policy to the full board for adopting this month.

Serendipity's Yellow house: Whether or not to, or when to, pay off the yellow house has been a topic of conversation for months at FC meetings. Initially there was discussion of waiting until after the POH replacement event to see what the financial state was for Serendipity. Current thinking is in favor of paying the balance in order to eliminate the excess interest we would be paying if we waited to the loan completion. The FC is going to ask for a decision from the BOD at the next meeting.

We are still awaiting results of the 403b pension audit.

Fundraising Update

See Caron's Development update and the attached grant update.

Program Advisory Committee

Working on 2020 District Open House.

Capital Committee

In the past month, several in-person meetings with legislators, senators, and staff in Salem were scheduled, or have occurred regarding Serendipity's lotter dollars proposal. Belinda and everyone who went with her did an excellent job representing Serendipity and this project. Last week we were informed that \$2 million dollars toward the project was moved from the lotter dollars bill to a general funding bill. While we are still learning the implications of this, it is a huge step forward toward making this project a reality. Belinda has begun reaching out to foundations and past large donors to begin the groundwork for the capital campaign portion of funding our expansion.

Tri-Met is still in the process of redesigning the inevitable stop and shelter that will reside on our corner, so no formal offer has been made. In the meantime, PGE has asked for an easement over the future corner to relocate power poles to accommodate the change. Serendipity reached out to our Land use attorney Kelly Hossaini at MNGD to review the agreement. Her opinion is that granting the easement comes down to our comfort level with it as it is written, and given her experience with PGE in the past, she sees it as low risk. The reality is that the easement will transfer to Tri-Met after the condemnation/sale of our corner, so it is an inevitability. After this opinion from Kelly, Belinda and Matty agree that we are comfortable granting the easement. We have also granted Tri-Met an easement for a temporary bus shelter on our corner during the construction along Division. We will provide more update as soon as we know more about the sale, and the remainder of the project. Tri-Met's proposal is scheduled to be presented to us on March 11th.

Work with our new IT managed Service provider continues to move forward. Several projects have been completed, and several more or on the horizon. Completed projects include the

installation of a new firewall, and new data back-up plan. Next on the agenda are migrating Sage/Accpac to the cloud, redesigning and cleaning up Serendipity's electrical closet, converting to Office 365, and converting our aging phone system to a cloud based VOIP system. This investment in our IT infrastructure is labor intensive, but also overdue.

Attachments

February Eagles' Scream

the eagles scream



MISSION

Provide the best environment for our students to heal and become educated, productive community members.



CAMPUS ADDRESS:
14815 SE Division St.
Portland, OR 97236

MAILING ADDRESS:
PO Box 33350
Portland, OR 97292

www.serendipitycenter.org



Join our reporting team!

Everyone is encouraged to submit art or writing! By contributing to the school newsletter you get to have your voice heard school-wide!

Guidelines for submissions:

- 5-7 sentences
- Typed or handwritten
- School Appropriate
- Follows school expectations of being safe, respectful, and responsible to others (not offensive to students or staff)

Halfway Edition

January 22nd marked the halfway point for our school year.

And Spring Break is so close!

This month has meant warmer weather, field trips, adventures in Life Skills and GSA. Students sent Friendgrams for Valentine's day, and noticed all

the new blooms on the Nike playground and in the garden.

16 School Days until Spring Break!



Important Dates to Remember

March 23-27



Dates to know:

March 9: No school for all students. School-wide Professional Development

March 13: No school for Lower School Professional Development Day. Upper School Normal School Day.



March 16-20

Newsletter Created by Staff and Students of Serendipity Center, Inc.

Serendipity Center, Inc. will not discriminate against any individual with respect to employment or provision of services based upon that individual's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, political affiliation, marital status, disability, gender identity, source of income or familial status. Additionally, Serendipity complies with Executive Order 11246, Titles VI, VII and IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Inquiries regarding compliance with this policy may be directed to the Compliance Officer, Jelena Doney at: P.O. Box 33350, Portland, Oregon 97292-3350, or by phone at (503) 595-2753

Principal's Post



Hello Serendipity students, families, & staff,

We are halfway through the school year! So far we have not had any snow days, but if we do you will get a robo call in the morning. You can also call the front desk at 503-761-7139 and listen to the message, or you can download flash alert to get updates on your phone. Flash Alert will let all the news media know as well. My favorite quote is "Never doubt that a small group of thought, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only things that ever has." – Margaret Mead Looking forward to a great 3rd Quarter.

Principal Megan

Spring is coming! What are you most excited for about Spring?

"Easter! I am excited about plastic trains and Thomas DVDs and chocolate bunny and pink bubble gum." — Max, Rm106

"Field trips to the park!" —Gunnar, Rm 106

"My birthday!" —Dayvion, Rm 8

"Spring break!"— Henry, Rm 8

"Caterpillars and a whole week off!" —Payton, Rm 8



Creative Corner



Drawing by Chloe,
Room 103



Monday: Athletes vs. Mathletes

Tuesday: Camo Day

Wednesday: Favorite Character Day

Thursday: Heroes vs. Villains

Friday: Pajama Day

Remember, all outfits and accessories should be safe for school. If you are not sure about your outfit, you can ask a staff member. Real or pretend weapons are not allowed and masks can only be worn at Skills Practice.