

Director's Report  
Serendipity Center  
November 2019

**Enrollment Update**

2019-2020 Projections Reflecting 11/18/19	
Currently enrolled	107
Start date set	0
Admissions in process	0
Possible referrals (districts in discussion with Serendipity Admissions or parents requesting a tour)	1
Wait List	9
Placements at risk	5
<b>Likely Enrollment</b>	104
<b>Budgeted annual average enrollment:</b>	101

**Program Update:**

Enrollment continues to be higher than what is typical for this time of the year. Our upper school is nearly full. While there is some room in a few of the Lower School classrooms, there is currently a waiting list of seven students specifically for 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade. High enrollment at the beginning of the year presents some challenges in hiring enough staff to meet needs; we are currently in need of nine Instructional Assistants. Anecdotally, while at a recent conference, Megan learned that in programs similar to ours, it is typical to only retain 20% of staff hired. Matty is preparing to conduct an analysis of Serendipity's staff retention rate.

We have been in contact with a mom from Bellingham who came across Serendipity in researching an appropriate placement for her student online. She traveled to Portland to do a tour and is considering moving to Portland so that her student can attend Serendipity. This led our management team to consider whether or not Serendipity is equipped to accept a private pay student (rather than district placement) and we determined that we are not equipped to do so. As a Private Alternative School and as a private SPED placement, all of our students still technically "belong" to the referring district; the districts are still responsible for providing services that Serendipity is not prepared to provide (such as occupational therapy, supports for English language learners, standardized testing, etc.) and reporting to ODE. The parents were notified about this determination and are going to pursue that Bellingham contract placement with Serendipity. Managers felt the exercise of exploring private pay was worthwhile.

The focus on Structure and Routine this school year has had a palpable effect on the program. While Restraint & Seclusion numbers are not the only way this is felt, they are the only

indicator we currently have to quantify the impact. In last week's internal School Improvement team meeting, the following statistics were reported: *In comparing overall number of physical restraints utilized compared to the same time last year, we see a marked overall reduction of use of physical management (-46.12% throughout the program). Most of this change is because of reduced 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 related to a single high-utilization student who is new to the program. Upper School saw a reduction of -33.3% in the use of physical management among non-high-utilization students; and overall usage of physical management in the Upper School program remains low.*

Early data for assessments for learning shows a promising trend of both increased participation as well as increased scores of 51% and 59% respectively for writing and math. In Trish's class, our youngest students, all students who took the test last year have improved by at least one grade level.

Last week a sliding window was installed connecting the Student Health Office (SHO) to the Dining Room. This is the final step in the changes made that have dramatically changed the way medications are administered to students. In past years, the CMA spent the day running medications to students in classrooms, which was time consuming and made her less able to respond to medical situations that arose. Now that the SHO has moved to a more convenient location and has the window, students can access their medications either by coming into the Hub or by coming to the window- whichever way they feel most comfortable. The new Health Assistant has already reported that the window has led to more students arriving on time and is working well.

**Finance Committee Update**

The Finance Committee met on November 6th to review and accept the September 2019 financial statements. These are summarized below:

Net earnings for September 2019	\$(13,641)
Net earnings for September 2018	\$17,451
Budgeted net earnings for September 2019	\$(9, 012)
Net earnings year-to-date 2019	\$(388,495)
Net earnings year-to-date 2018	\$(317,763)
Budgeted net earnings year-to-date 2019	\$(329,145)

The variances are directly related to a smaller than expected ESY and budgeted higher wages. In the last cash status report, reflecting 11/5/19, excess working capital stood at \$559,863, making credit line usage unlikely this fall. The board designated savings account stands at \$120,072,

Discussed this month:

- Our IT consultant group, Convergence, has completed their audit of our technology needs and presented a tiered set of solutions. This will require some cash outlay but much of it can be capitalized.
- Management has explored the idea of providing staff lunches at no charge in order to better equip staff to support students during the day.
- Many banks are offering competitive interest rates for new accounts; we will explore moving some of our cash in order to earn meaningful interest.

### **Fundraising Update**

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

### **Program Advisory Committee**

The Program Advisory Committee is supporting the program leaders and Belinda is structuring what promises to be a fabulous YO Breakfast. The title is "A Season to Heal," with a focus on ways a therapeutic school garden integrates with and advances mental health services delivered within a school. Jackie and Nicolas are co-presenting. Jackie agreed to attend this month's board meeting, to provide an overview in order to support board members in discussing the topic with guests you may wish to invite. Invitations will be provided mid-December. January 30<sup>th</sup>. It is likely the venue is the Oregon Public House.

### **Capital Committee**

This committee is also presenting at the board meeting. Recent work has involved the production of a visual case statement to accompany the proposal to the lottery. A mock-up will be shared in the meeting. The other topic being monitored is the acquisition of our corner by Tri-Met. No package containing our offer has as yet arrived.

### **Attachments**

- 2019-2020 Grant Report (to date)





Grants 2019-2020

Submitted prior to beginning of fiscal year					
Foundation	Amount	Project	Outcome	Fiscal year Recognized	Final Report
Randall Charitable Trust	\$5,000	GM Garden	Awarded \$5,000	19-20	June 2020
The Standard	\$10,000	Tier II	LOI Pending		
99 Girlfriends	\$100,000	Service expansion	declined		

Awarded Multi-year grants active at beginning of fiscal year					
Foundation	Amount	Project	Outcome	Fiscal year Recognized	Final Report
Meyer Memorial Trust	\$180,000	Tier II	Year 2	\$120,000 18-19 \$60,000 19-20	
OCF	\$30,000	Tier II	Year 2	\$20,000 18-19 \$10,000 19-20	
Collins Foundation	\$60,000	Tier II	Year 1	\$30,000 18-19 \$30,000 19-20	

Submitted July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020					
Foundation	Amount	Project	Outcome	Fiscal year Recognized	Final Report
100+ Women, East Co.	\$11,700	GM Garden	Awarded \$10,100	19-20	
Autzen Foundation	\$5,000	GM Garden	Awarded \$4,000	19-20	
Rippey Family Foundation	\$50,000	Four Pillar Fund	Awarded \$50,000	19-20	
Charis Fund	\$5,000	Outcome Project	declined		
Boyd Family Foundation	\$5,000	Outcome Project	Pending		
Juan Young Trust	\$10,000	Library Media	Pending		
Heatherington Foundation	\$25,000- \$50,000	Expanding Therapeutic Ed.	Pending		
Swigert	\$10,000	GM Garden	LOI Pending		
Mills Davis	\$25,000	Farm to Community	Almost pending		
OR Farm to Table Grant	\$148,734 over 18 months	GM Garden	Pending		
Hoover	\$7,500	Library/Media	Pending		

Targeted July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020						
Foundation	Amount	Project	Due	Fiscal year Recognized	Final Report	
Bill Healy Foundation	\$15,000	Four Pillar	On-going			
NIKE Impact Fund	\$10,000	GM garden	12/19			
Spirit Mountain	\$30,000	Transition	1/20			
Maybelle Clark Macdonald	\$25,000	GM garden	8/15/19			
Templeton	\$5,000	Outcomes?	3/20			
Reser	\$10,000	Transition	2/20			
Silver Family Foundation	\$20,000	Transition	3/20			
Jackson	\$5,000		quarterly			
Weston	\$25,000	Four Pillars	December			
Tucker	\$5,000		quarterly			
Miller	\$15,000	Outcomes	bi-monthly			
Quest			On-going			
Umpqua	\$7,500- \$10,000	Media Specialist				