



Director Report
March 2016

“Micro” Moment:

‘MACS has a special needs student that has had a hard time buying into the business concept and working at a job. He didn’t really know at interview/application time why he would need to do any of this. He also did not understand why he would want to earn money and even ripped up his first paycheck. As MicroCity started to open up their Marketplace regularly and this student could see the different agencies and ventures and what he could do with his paycheck, he took more interest. He stumbled across a venture, Photos and Frames, and took interest in the preparations students were doing to make the frames. He asked the facilitator and owner if he could work for them instead. The owners consulted with the manager and they agreed. This student now happily runs off to work each day to assist in the “frame making assembly line” to support his team in growing their business. And we are happy to report he doesn’t rip up his paychecks anymore!’

Upcoming/Recent Happenings at MACS:

Amy has been working on securing Title I funding for the current school year. She has been informed by the DOE that MACS should receive between \$5K-7K . We still need to work with the DOE to upload requirements before the money is released. Amy and Susannah will be meeting with the DOE at MACS on March 8th to start the application process. If awarded any Title I funds, MACS would be able to offer an, invitation only, academic based summer camp for students who qualify. The Title I monies, if received this year, must be spent by August.

Lexia and RTI is underway at MACS! Teachers received training from Lexia during the February Teacher Workshop and have been using the program with all students. Students identified in need of Tier 2 intervention have received a site license so staff can track progress and pinpoint areas that are in need of more intense teacher/student instruction. Mrs. Dagianis has been supporting classroom teachers and students with Lexia and is assisting in our RTI program. Thanks Mrs. Dagianis!

On March 18th, Ms. Danielle Cormier, first grade teacher, and Ms. Carideo, fifth grade teacher, will be joining Mrs. Williams at the Charter School Best Practices Conference in Salem at the Birches Academy. We are excited for the opportunity to send some of our teachers to meet other charter school educators and attend professional development workshops on best practices currently happening in NH charter schools.

We had another successful open house in February. Our last open house for the admissions process is March 14th. So far we have received 42 applicants for Kindergarten, 11 for 1st grade, 3 for 2nd , 1 for 3rd grade, 0 for 4th grade, 3 for 5th grade and 8 for 6th grade. This means the majority of our classes will meet full enrollment with the exception of 4th and 5th, which will only be about 1 shy per class, as it stands now. Keeping in mind, we have another open house to go! We are still fielding calls and emails everyday. The response has been overwhelming!

Amy is finishing up teacher evaluations and observations. All staff will have gone through the process by the end of March. Next, she will be working with the board's sub committee on contract packages and language. The teacher salary schedule for 2016-17 is due to the DOE by April 15th, along with the 2016-17 school calendar. Amy will have a calendar to present to the board that will need to be approved at the April 13th board meeting.

Smarter Balanced Testing will take place the week of April 4-8th and the Science NECAP will be May 9-13th. SBAC testing is for 3-5th grade students and NECAP Science is for 4th. Amy and Susannah have been working with the DOE to get the process started, as well as develop test day schedules. We hope to be able to be approved to take a paper/pencil test version since our students had a late start getting computer use this year. Amy is still waiting to hear which version for the testing we will need to take.

This trimester, the staff will be incorporating two Micro Standards into the triennial report card. With such a short time frame to develop and produce a report card the first trimester, we were unable to get training in time to add our own unique standards to the system. But we are happy to report we will be adding a Micro based performance and concept standard to the 2nd and 3rd reporting periods this year.

MicroSociety Update:

We have secured a day and time for our first annual Micro Night! It will be on March 23rd from 6-7pm. Families, board members, and friends of MACS are invited to join students as they open up the MicroCity Marketplace! Visitors can purchase micro bucks, which in turn can be used to purchase goods and services through our student run agencies and ventures! Come watch an educational short film while enjoying some popcorn, or perhaps you are in need of a new piece of jewelry or a greeting card? Come on buy and see all the amazing things the students of MACS have been up to each and every day!

Sylvia Sanchez from MicroSociety Inc. has confirmed a visit in early May. We will be sharing more details as she confirms her trip. We are excited for her to see all of our progress since

December! Goals for her visit include more individual time with teachers so they can start to become more comfortable with tying in micro language during academic periods.

Friends of MACS Update:

The Friends of MACS group does it again! In February they held a Family Valentine's Dance. There was be music, dancing, a photo booth and a bake sale. They were able to raise just over \$900 for MACS! The First Annual Auction Night event planning is also underway. Donations are slowly rolling in for the May 20th event at the Nashua Country Club. Time is still to be determined, but will most likely start at either 6 or 7 pm. Stay tuned for a list of exciting items up for grabs!

Next up.... Bingo!

Building / School Budget Status

We are excited to announce that MACS has received \$5500 in grants from Fidelity Charitable!

At this time, it seems that build out is complete with JH Spain. Intercoms, double doors on MPR room are complete. Blinds are in, but we are still waiting on the ceiling intercoms from TSE. We have also had some internet issues, that were resolved from TSE and we continue to have leaking issues in the building due to the roof, which the facilities committee is working on. Amy will also be meeting with the facilities committee on building maintenance and custodial needs in the coming month.

And hopefully, we can start to address the playground completion come spring, which is right around the corner.

It's hard to believe there is only less than 4 months left of the school year. What a milestone!

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Bottomley, Director