

**Director Report**  
**October 2015**

**Building Transition:**

There is no doubt that we could not have gotten as far as we have without the board, parent and teacher volunteers! We had a group of volunteers help us move furniture from the storage pod, move desks from Groton, NH and pack up and move from the church into 591. It has not been an easy task and included long days and nights, but students and staff can not wait to move into their permanent home! The teachers and staff have been working hard putting on finishing touches and I have no doubt we will see excitement on the kids faces come Thursday morning. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

**Upcoming at MACS:**

Staff have completed progress monitoring assessments and will be sharing the results with parents at the October Parent Teacher Conferences which will happen during the last week in October (10/26-10/20). Conferences provide an opportunity for teachers to speak to families about their child's individual progress and for parents to have questions answered. The staff would love to have 100% attendance.

Administration has also been working with staff to review the progress monitoring data and identify students working below grade level (1 or more years behind) in reading and math. Those students will attend RTI (Response To Intervention) Tier II services during our specials period on Monday when PE, Art, Guidance and Music is not running. Staff will pull small groups based on ability and work on areas of deficit in hopes of closing the gap through more individualized instruction. The Tier II students will be assessed more frequently (about every 6-8 weeks) to ensure they are making progress. Students who do not need intervention will have the opportunity to do extension activities during this time block. Overall, the progress monitoring assessments have provided teachers with a baseline on each individual student. Our goal is to take a mid and end of the year measure so we can continue to monitor and ensure growth over the course of the year for all MACS students.

Next, MACS is having a very difficult time setting up and getting approved to offer free and reduced lunch options. At this time, it does not appear we will be able to provide free and reduced meals. The board has been in touch with Nashua School District to see if we can work anything out, and there is still hope, but it will not be possible through the caterer. (See Lisa's report from the board minutes for more info).

Amy has completed and submitted her BOY and other state reporting requirements due October 15th.

Amy, Susannah, and Administrative Assistant, Kellie Rubin have been working to get the biographical data and all the CCSS (common core) and Science and Social Study state standards entered for the ALMA SIS (student information system). It is currently in ALMA's hands and we are waiting on the rollout and training for staff. ALMA will provide the school with the ability to text, email and robo call families with emergency announcements, snow delays and cancelations, and general announcements as needed. ALMA also acts as a gradebook and lesson planner for staff, allowing them to track progress in covering the standards. ALMA will also help teachers track individual student progress on the standards and our report card will be done electronically, through ALMA. There is a parent portal that will allow parents to see the grade reports during "open window" times at the end of each trimester. There will be more information to come when we are up and running.

### **MicroSociety Update:**

Students spent the last two days on all day MicroSociety Days due to the transition taking place into 591. Fortunately for us, it was a HUGE hit with the kids. Business proposals rolled in prior to our two days and business were chosen: Jewellery Making, Juice Bar and Game Show, Card Making Studio and Photo's N Frames. We were overwhelmed by the amount of business proposals!

During our two MicroSociety themed days, our students were welcomed to a whole school assembly where they ratified the constitution. Next they were separated into groups (mixed grade levels) and rotated through 4 stations depending on interests (am and then pm) where they reviewed and signed the social contract, played cooperative games, took business management 101, created campaign buttons and posters, worked on speech writing/edits, and started resume writing... just to name a few! We even had a special last minute surprise guest! Mayoral Candidate, Chris Williams, came to talk to our candidates about running for office. What a treat! Thank you to guidance counselor, Kate Dagianis, for setting up Chris's visit. The next day (an early release day) completed our Micro time with speeches and elections. It definitely was a worthwhile two days!

Staff and students are looking forward to starting the ventures and agencies. We hope to announce an upcoming Micro Night in February once our businesses are up and running. Micro Night allows parents an opportunity to get a first hand experience of what their children have been doing during Micro Block and provides a fundraising opportunity for the school as well. More information is forthcoming.

Administration also sent home a beginning of the year climate survey for parents to anonymously fill out and return to the school. We hope to develop goals around school climate and perceptions around MicroSociety and then send an end of the year survey to measure progress. Stay tuned for the results of the survey once the data is compiled and analyzed!

Overall, a lot of "sweat equity" has gone into the building and the staff should be commended for going above and beyond to make the move into 591 a day to remember. I personally would like to extend my thanks and gratitude for all they have done.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Bottomley  
MACS Director