

STATE OF THE SCHOOL



Quest
Montessori School
questschool.org

Quest Board of Directors
January 2019

AGENDA

Introductions & Policy Governance Overview

12-month Accomplishments

Strategic Plan Overview & Status Updates

Accreditation Reports Highlights

Middle School: come next week!

Strategic Planning

Q&A



INTRODUCTIONS & THE POLICY GOVERNANCE® MODEL

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tolga Kokturk, President
- Emi Uchida, Vice-President
- Rob Cagnetta, Treasurer
- Amy Smith, Secretary
- Paul Pereira, Director

THE BOARD & POLICY GOVERNANCE®

The Board of Directors for Quest utilizes the Policy Governance model. Policy Governance tasks the Board with four main responsibilities to its constituency.

This constituency consists of the parent community, the student community, the staff community and the community of families interested in Montessori education. The Board's four main responsibilities are:

Establishing the linkage to ownership

The Board acts as representatives of the “ownership” (the persons whom the organization serves and serves as the legitimizing connection between this base and the organization.)

Establishing the “ends” and “means” policies

“Ends” are about the organization's impact on the world (much like a mission statement) that justifies its existence. “Means” are the administrative and organizational tools used to achieve the ends set forth by the organization. The Board is tasked with outlining and creating limitations on the means in which the school is run.

Monitoring performance

By consistently monitoring and enforcing the policies that are established the Board will ensure the organization is on target to fulfill the mission it has set forth.

Planning for the future

Quest’s Board, in partnership with the Head of School, is responsible for long-range planning, developing and maintaining an effective strategic plan, and responding to changes in the needs of our constituency to secure the future health and growth of our school.

The Quest Board of Directors is committed to maintaining the best possible authentic Montessori education for the community we serve. By focusing on the “ends” policy and the responsibilities set forth in Policy Governance, rather than becoming involved in administrative and operational details which are best handled by Head of School, the Board is ideally positioned to look at the big picture and see the best path for achieving this(these) goal(s).

QUEST MONTESSORI ENDS POLICY

Quest Montessori School (“QMS”) exists so that its students will receive an authentic Montessori education to become lifelong learners who realize their full potential. QMS is committed to delivering this education at a tuition that represents a good value compared to other independent schools serving the Rhode Island community.

12-MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

- Completion of the barn, greenhouse and return of the chickens to complete development of an environment of natural learning
- Continued curricular enrichment – enhanced Middle School program
- New Head of School
- Successful completion of dual accreditation: Association of Independent Schools in New England (AISNE) and American Montessori Society (AMS), only school with both in Rhode Island

QUEST STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2020: OVERVIEW & UPDATES



✓ GOAL ONE: BUILD A SCHOOL CAMPUS OF NATURAL LEARNING

Plan, design and build a school campus that realizes a natural environment for play and learning beyond the classroom and serves all constituencies of the school community.

- 1.1 Develop a long-term Campus and Facilities Master Plan
- 1.2 Greenhouse and Garden
- 1.3 Develop Play Spaces
- 1.4 Design and Build a Multipurpose Building
- 1.5 Incorporate Farm and Domestic Animals into the Outdoor Environment
- 1.6 Build Outdoor Structures on the Campus
- 1.7 Enhance the Entrance and Security of the Campus
- 1.8 Provide Accessibility to the Entire Site
- 1.9 Develop an Outdoor Performance Setting



GOAL TWO: ENRICH AND ENHANCE PROGRAM

Work vigorously to improve our curriculum and programs with an emphasis on teaching innovation, leadership, global awareness, responsibility and sustainability. Support and strengthen our core curriculum based on current educational research.



2.1 Broaden the Scope of the Curriculum

- i. Health & Wellness Curriculum; 6th year and middle school program in place
- ii. World Language Program; in redevelopment
- iii. 21st Century Technology: Coding, robotics [qualified for state 2 years in a row], graphic design

- ✓ 2.2 Middle School
- ✓ 2.3 Community Learning
- ✓ 2.4 After School Programs
- ✓ 2.5 Summer Programs

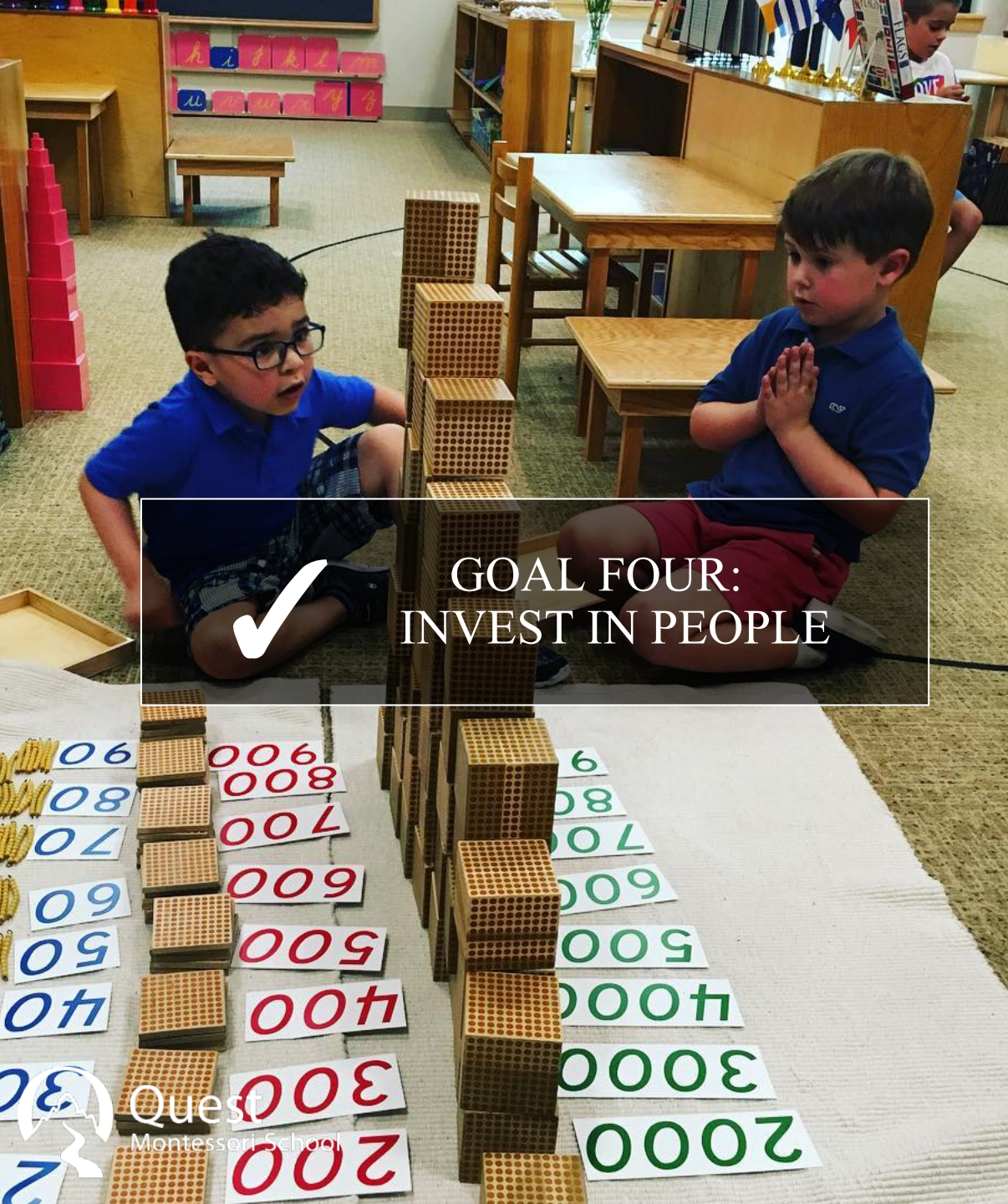


GOAL THREE: CONNECT THE QUEST COMMUNITY THROUGH OPPORTUNITY SERVICE AND GIVING

Connect the Quest Community through Opportunity, Service and Giving

Design and implement strategies that connect the Quest community through opportunity, service and giving in ways that ensure the financial stability and long-term viability of the school.

- ✓ 3.1 Strengthen the Community Connection: provide more venues for teacher collaboration and initiatives to facilitate connection and relationships between students across programs
- ✓ 3.2 Enhance the Parent Experience: Blog, enhanced social connections, Montessori Mornings, meeting with new families, QCO approach; QCO working to engage parents more outside of the classroom
- ⚠ 3.3 Culture of Philanthropy: Developing culture of service and giving throughout the program and broader Quest community
- Ongoing 3.4 Long-term Strategic Financial Plan
- ⚠ 3.5 Institutional Advancement Plan; key area of focus for the Board



Design and implement a professional development program that creates an avenue for sharing innovative instructional methods, provides support in securing resources and information, promotes collaboration among faculty, and makes connection between classroom and community. In short, invest in people.

4.1 Growth-oriented Faculty Culture

4.2 Budgeted Support for Faculty Professional Development

4.3 Board Education

4.4 Fair and Competitive Salaries and Benefits



GOAL FIVE: ACCREDITATION

Use the process of accreditation to establish a vision for the school in collaboration with the Quest stakeholders, including administrators, governing board members, faculty, staff, parents, students and community. Use this process to guide the school in capturing the core reasons for its existence, distinguishing it from other schools, and defining its educational purposes.

5.1 Revisit the Mission, Develop a Purpose and Outcome Statement

5.2 Accreditation

5.3 Implement a Continuous Process of Institutional Self-Reflection and Improvement [part of new strategic planning process]



ACCREDITATION HIGHLIGHTS

ACCREDITATION COMMENDATIONS

- Our commitment to the authentic implementation of Montessori curriculum and philosophy.
- The variety of our enrichment programs and their alignment with the mission and philosophy of the school.
- The development and implementation of ambitious, enriching and meaningful capstone projects.
- Our Middle School micro-businesses and the opportunity it provides Middle School students to engage in authentic work.
- Our efforts in support of environmental sustainability.
- The obvious care of and respect for each individual student by each member of the administration, faculty and staff.
- Developing and maintaining a well-qualified, mission-oriented, and professional administration, faculty and staff.
- Financial support of and commitment to professional growth and life-long learning.
- Our gorgeous facility and outdoor space, both of which are thoughtfully designed keeping the Montessori mission and philosophy in mind.

Accreditation Recommendations

- **Nothing that we had not already identified**
 - Formalization and documentation of certain processes
 - Articulate the importance of diversity and equity at Quest, as appropriate to the school's mission, and then formulate policy/policies to that end
 - Commit to ongoing and comprehensive efforts towards developing multicultural competencies and practices of inclusion and equity.
 - Simplify Mission Statement
- **One-year and Five-year Progress Check-ins**
- **Ten-year Re-Accreditation Visit**



MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

QUEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Math, Science, Humanities Specialists
- Real Life Math Problems
- Extended Science & Humanities Blocks
- Peace Curriculum
- URI Student Leadership Pilot Program
- More Going-outs (Field Trips) & Coming -ins (Visiting Experts)
- Real World Projects
 - Sea Perch: ROV
 - Greenhouse Design
 - Coastal Growers

QUEST STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS FOR 2020-2025

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

- Written surveys will be developed and issued to multiple constituencies (e.g. current and past families, alumni and faculty) to secure input from as much of the community as possible [Spring 2019]
- Survey inputs will be combined with the accreditation recommendations and the community inputs from the spring 2018 meetings [Spring 2019]
- A board committee will be formed to conduct a SWOT analysis, the outcome of which will be strategic plan recommendations to the community [Spring – Summer 2019]
- A community forum will be scheduled to discuss the recommendations and secure stakeholder feedback [Fall 2019]
- The Board Committee will finalize the strategic plan and full Board will vote to approve [December 2019]
- The HOS will deliver recommendations for how to implement [Spring 2020]

Q&A

Reminder: you can always reach the Board directly at
questrelations@gmail.com



Quest
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THANK YOU

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