



Charter Schools Office

Report: Mid-Contract

Academy: Battle Creek Montessori Academy

Date: November 5 & 6, 2019

The visitation occurred at Battle Creek Montessori Academy with four members on the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office (CSO) visitation team. The team had the opportunity to meet with and interview the School Leader, representatives from the management company, the School Improvement Team, and one Board Member. The team was able to tour the facility and visit several classrooms to observe teaching and learning. We appreciate the open communication and transparency from the academy team.

Visitation Findings

School Improvement Processes and Student Outcomes	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current initiatives are aligned with the School Improvement Plan.• Decision making has become more intentional; the team utilizes multiple sources of data to prioritize focus.• The team is aware of academic weaknesses and have identified priorities for improvement.• Staff recognize the need to establish schoolwide systems and protocols to connect and unify staff across the school community.• BCMA is working with Kent ISD to develop appropriate protocols for PBIS/MTSS.• BCMA is working with Calhoun ISD to support special education services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to identify best practices to address the gap between cohort and non-cohort students.• Continue to identify methods to attract and retain 5th-8th grade students.• Continue to expand your use of data aggregation and analysis as means to inform instruction.• Continue efforts to develop a written MTSS protocol, including progress monitoring cycles to review the effectiveness of interventions being implemented.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal is leading PLCs to ensure that data is driving the discussion and actions. This year the process is much more organized and intentional. • PLCs meet twice a month and focus on relevant data. Students are tracked using longitudinal/linear data. • BCMA utilizes a weekly scope and sequence (K-6) aligned to state standards (MAPP – Montessori aligned preparation program), as well as research-based curriculum resources including Fountas & Pinnell. • Push-in/Pull-out with Literacy Coach and Reading Specialist have increased to better serve student needs. • Each classroom has a Teaching Assistant for Title I students. • Teachers encourage ownership of individual results; meeting with individual students (grades 3-8) to review NWEA and identify goals to reach their desired score. • The master schedule has been arranged to accommodate instructional needs (math in am). • The BCMA team emphasizes their goal to support and assist community members by putting students and families first. 	
<u>Academy Culture Review</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBIS training has assisted in the development of schoolwide behavior initiatives (Peaceful, Positive, Productive) to encourage self-regulation. • Teachers report a collaborative culture and a positive teaching community. • Teachers describe a positive family community and strong parental involvement. • BCMA is involved with several community partnerships that support families and students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop additional partnerships to support whole child growth and development – social, emotional, and cognitive well-being. • Continue efforts to encourage parental involvement and support – PTO, family-based events, etc.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers have autonomy and the ability to impact schoolwide decision making. There are ample opportunities for parents to engage with staff and students. 	
<u>Mission Accomplishment</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCMA staff consistently discuss and reference the mission, vision and core values. Classroom strategies are closely aligned and supportive of the vision to be the choice school in Calhoun County. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to revisit the alignment and relevance of your vision, mission and core values.
<u>Governance and Leadership</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board members report a positive working relationship with the ESP. Open-communication and financial transparency are an important aspect of their relationship. The Board recognizes the importance of standardized assessment outcomes yet focuses on the growth and success of the whole child. There is careful consideration of current financial standings and fiscal responsibility. There is a clear understanding of the mission, vision, and core values, which guide the decision-making process. The Board continues to consider future opportunities and improvements that support the achievement of their vision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider revisiting the Strategic Plan to ensure that is relevant, up-to-date, and addressing the needs of BCMA students. Continue to seek additional board candidate.

<u>Resources and Support Systems</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choice School Associates provides a strong support system – districtwide specialists assist the school leader with identifying and addressing areas of need. Staff report that Choice University has proven beneficial and supportive in addressing the needs of BCMA’s population (teacher self-care, de-escalating behaviors, Sped talks, trauma informed training, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<u>Facilities Review</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many improvements/updates have been made to the facility; kitchen/cafeteria, staff room, and restrooms. Plans are in place to begin construction of new awnings, updated windows, partitions and upgrades for the interior of the building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue efforts to ensure that your building improvements will help to meet the needs of the students and staff.

<u>Website/Social Media Review</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The website provides necessary and adequate information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue efforts to use social media to promote the academy and communicate with stake holders.

CSO Review of Overall Performance for BATTLE CREEK MONTESSORI ACADEMY

<u>Contract Performance Report Review</u>	
Observations (2017-19 data)	Opportunities for Growth (2017-19 data)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent proficiency percentages on MSTEP, ELA had a small gain MSTEP Proficiency Percentages were well above Composite District ELA MSTEP Growth Score was 53 PSAT 8 scores were positive and well above resident district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAP Growth can improve (Yellow range) MAP Achievement can improve (Yellow range) MSTEP Math growth score was 48, in order to close the gap with State averages you need to get above 50

<u>School Support Team (SST) and Field Representative (FR) Updates</u>	
Observations (2019-current data)	Opportunities for Growth (2019-current data)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green SST Designated School in all non-academic Pillars Yellow SST Designated School in Academic Pillar Stable leadership and enrollment continues No apparent major facility issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish remodel project Reduce the gap between MSTEP proficiency percentages and State averages

Overall Opportunities for Growth

- Keep up the solid Composite District comparison data!
- Complete building remodel to enhance the learning environment
- Get to that 50th percentile of growth in MSTEP Math

Current CSO Expectations in Consideration for Recommendation of Reauthorization. These are subject to change.

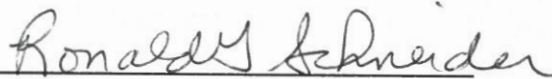
For Battle Creek Montessori Academy:

- Meet or exceed FSU CSO's academic measures and goals
- Continue to follow all charter contractual expectations
- The CSO may have other academic and non-academic expectations as more information becomes available. All other contractual and policy standards must be met and maintained.
- Keep your MDE Accountability Index Score above the bottom 5% in the State
- Remain fiscally solvent

Signed



CSO Visitation Chair



CSO Associate Director