Baylor College of Medicine Academy
SDMC Meeting Minutes for 11/21/13 Meeting

Meeting officially called to order at 4:24 pm.

Sat. 11/23 Open House Update – almost all staff will be in attendance, a schedule has been circulated, had a parent meeting for Open House planning. Parents will set up refreshments in Room 100C. Principal Malhan expressed thanks and appreciation for all involved.

UIL & Chess Championship Wins Announced – a handout was distributed with names of the winners – Coach Estevez shared that December is the next chess tournament. The option of a Chess elective class was brought up as a possibility for next year.

A team from Beijing, China will visit BCMA on Dec. 2nd from the Haidian District.

Yew Chung Education Foundation from Hong Kong will visit BCMA on Dec. 9th.

An Android Math App (Fractions) via Texas A&M will be implemented soon.

We’ve been approved as a Replication Site to implement a STEM Summer Institute (SSI) in Fall 2015 – goal is to prepare kids for advanced and accelerated course work.

We had a visit this past Monday, Nov. 18th from the External Coaching & Support Project Team. Ms. Malhan & Ms. Furnari met with the team, and they were very encouraging and supportive of us.

Team BCMA presented at Magnet Schools of Texas and Mid-South Conference, including our students from Mrs. Abraham and Mr. Garcia’s classes.

Ms. Malhan recently attended a Discovery Ed Tech Conference in Grand Prairie, TX on Oct. 8th, dealing with TechBooks, online accessible textbooks for Science. The district is stating that they want all textbooks in the future to have an available online digital copy, as well as hard copy.

Ms. Malhan recently attended the UT Austin Job Fair to seek out highly qualified teaching candidates for next year. It is a high priority to get more great teachers on board as we plan for next year.

Power Up 1 to 1 Trainings – BCMA staff members are attending Power Up Trainings because we are an unofficial laptop school.

Dr. Moreno suggested communicating to parents about the Comcast program, which provides hi-speed internet access to families on free lunch for around $10 per month. Ms. Malhan indicated that we will reach out and send these home soon to our families.

Copies of Neuroscience Curriculum was distributed with a framework for what students will be doing each six weeks. Dr. Moreno stated what the kids are learning in Neuroscience has been funded by NIH.

Mrs. Harrison shared that she has received quite a few calls from people wanting to know how BCMA is going in its first year. She keeps getting asked two main questions: 1) Is this program a new experiment? and 2) Is this program too hard?

Mrs. Harrison had a meeting with the University of Houston and a group of people who bring about a community of art, and provided the SDMC with an update about a History/Museum Room at BCMA, and possibly making a permanent space for community gatherings. They need to know about what HISD’s commitment to providing building infrastructure for this purpose would be. Center for Public History at U of H is also interested in this project.

Ms. Furnari spoke to the many layers of intervention that are present at BCMA.

Tutorials – students can attend either teacher’s tutorial for a subject (For example – it does NOT have to just be their own Math teacher). Mr. Giasson expressed that some students may just go to the tutorial that they would like to go to versus the tutorial that they need to go to. Ms. Malhan stated that we will send an e-blast reminding parents and students that the students do not have to attend just the tutorials of their specific teachers.

A suggestion was made to compile demographic data for our Growth Plan students.

Mr. Finkelstein suggested that we require signatures on Progress Reports.