

Date : 1/26/2024 11:44:41 AM

From : "Amy Ray"

To : "Shannon Baggett"

Cc : "Maggie Fehrman"

Subject : Re: Chat

Sounds good, Shannon.Â Thank you.

Also, just to clarify, perhaps, I wanted to meet with you for a few reasons.Â First, I have wanted for some time to sit down with you, introduce myselfÂ on a more personal level, and get to know you a bit.Â I heard a lot during the campaign that teachers wanted to see board members in the school and engaged, and I have been so overwhelmed that I have not done a good job of that.Â I have known some of our principals and other educators for decades, but I really do not know you and I would like to.Â Â

Second, as you probably know, I released a Facebook post last week about the middle-school-reconfiguration possibilities, and I realized after the fact that I probably should have talked with you before even voicing my preliminary thoughts on the issue.Â The truth is that I know you and your staff do outstanding work.Â I know that from your success that is measured, but I also know that from friends of mine whose kids go there or who are on your staff.Â I am truly curious to learn more about what you are doing and what you think are the most important elements of what you do.Â I have to figure out exactly what we would lose and what we would gain with any potential decision.

At this point, we board members are not being asked to make any decisions.Â But in anticipation of the possibility of having to make a decision, I want to reach out as broadly as possible to hear from folks about solutions they would offer or what they value.Â The reason I circulated the post was to name the realities that make me wonder about middle school reconfiguration and to solicit input and engagement.Â I do not know yet the best course to take.Â I am genuinely trying to learn as much as possible so that I can make up my mind before I am asked to vote on the issue.Â And I think our principals should be among the first we hear from.Â I also think the board room is not the best space for real conversation about what we need.

Thank you for the work you do, and I am sorry that even the conversations about middle school reconfigurations are as disruptive as they are.Â I think we have to have them, but I know you must feel every day like the ground you are standing on is ready to cave in.Â I know a little bit about how that feels, and it is awful.

I'll connect with Maggie, and hopefully, we can connect.Â In the meantime, please know that I really look forward to getting to know you a bit, and I am coming at this work wanting to learn.

Thanks, and have a great weekend, Shannon.

Amy

On Fri, Jan 26, 2024 at 9:15â€AM Shannon Baggett <shannon.baggett@acsgmail.net> wrote:

Thanks Amy. Let me check Dr. Maggie's schedule for next week and I'll get back to you.Â

Have a great weekend!Â

Take care,Â

Shannon Baggett, M.A.S.T, NBCT

Principal, Montford North Star Academy

shannon.baggett@acsgmail.netÂ

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School: 828.350.6900 | Fax: 828.232.4404



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On Thu, Jan 25, 2024 at 9:34â€PM Amy Ray <amy.ray@acsgmail.net> wrote:

Shannon,

You may know this already, but Maggie is not available tomorrow. Let me see what next week looks like, when I have time tomorrow to look at my week, and then we will reconnect.

Thank you,

Amy

On Thu, Jan 25, 2024 at 10:52â€AM Amy Ray <amy.ray@acsgmail.net> wrote:

Thank you, Shannon. And please, please call me Amy.Â

Letâ€™s go with 9:30 tomorrow, if that will work for you. It will just be me, but feel free to invite members from your team that you want me to hear from tomorrow, if any. We will be having meetings where we can hear from you and your team in a more formal setting, but I am interested in really understanding how you feel and why. So candor and trust will be present, I hope.

Thank you, and I look forward to our conversation and learning more.

Amy

On Thu, Jan 25, 2024 at 10:20â€AM Shannon Baggett <shannon.baggett@acsgmail.net> wrote:

Hi Ms. Ray,Â

Thank you so much for reaching out and for your kind words. I would love the opportunity to speak with you. I am copying Dr. Maggie here and I will defer to her as to inviting other staff or board members.Â

Here are some times I am available ...

Friday (tomorrow) I can make anytime between 8:30 and 1pm work.Â

Monday next week 2-4pmÂ

Thank you so much for offering.Â

Take care,Â

Shannon Baggett, M.A.S.T, NBCT
Principal, Montford North Star Academy
shannon.baggett@acsgmail.netÂ

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On Wed, Jan 24, 2024 at 5:06â€PM Amy Ray <amy.ray@acsgmail.net> wrote:

Hi, Shannon. First, a huge congratulations for the accolades you and MNSA have received this year! You are obviously doing something(s) very right, and your staff have high praise for you. I for good reason.

Second, as we move further into discussions about the future of our middle schools, I would really appreciate the opportunity to chat with you about the issue and how you feel about the possibilities. Can we find a time for a conversation? I am thinking it should be just the two of us, but if you want me to invite a couple of other board members, or if you want to include a couple of others on your staff, I am open.Â Would you let me know if there is a good time for you on Friday or sometime next week? My week next week is getting pretty busy, but this is important and I want to meet when it is convenient for you.

Feel free to call or text me at (828) 989-6769.

Thank you, Shannon.

Amy