

DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

900 GRANT STREET / DENVER, CO 80203
TELEPHONE (303) 764-3200



McGLONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
4500 CROWN BOULEVARD / DENVER, CO 80239
TELEPHONE (303) 373-5080

May 24, 2011

Dear DPS Board of Education:

As the newly hired administrative team at McGlone Elementary, *Montbello Center for 21st Century Learning*, we highly encourage you to support our innovation plan. The students in the Montbello neighborhood deserve a high quality public education and we are committed to providing equal access to an exceptional 21st century education for all of our deserving McGlone students.

Approximately 90% of McGlone's African American students and 70% of McGlone's Hispanic students are currently not meeting the Colorado State standards in reading. In fact, the most recent 3rd grade reading CSAP scores indicate that nearly 50% of 3rd graders are not only below proficient, but indeed fall within the lowest "unsatisfactory" status rating. The only way to accelerate the learning for these McGlone students is to remove all barriers that stand between their current performance and grade level proficiency, and this requires innovation.

Innovation empowers teachers and leaders to dramatically change our school culture towards the highest expectations for both students and adults. Innovation allows flexibility of schedule, budget, and staffing to truly focus on the needs of students in order to make decisions that completely align with their success. A longer student school day and school year provides additional time and opportunity for differentiated instruction and learning. A flexible teacher schedule allows required teacher professional development above and beyond the duty day in order to ensure that our teachers are masterful in both their academic content and knowledge of best practices. A flexible budget allows a strategic staffing plan which includes a full time family liaison in order to maximize parent engagement and leadership. Flexibility with governance empowers McGlone's School Advisory Board to create their own by laws and processes for monitoring the innovation plan and succession planning.

Innovation will allow McGlone to accelerate the implementation of our vision: *Students will be prepared intellectually, linguistically, technologically, and socially to succeed in the 21st century.* Thank you for supporting the Montbello students and for giving thoughtful review and consideration of McGlone's innovation application.

Respectfully,

Suzanne Morey
Principal

Kalpana Rao
Assistant Principal

Trina McManus
Richie Administrative Intern