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Good morning,

The Mary L. Booker Leadership Academy team is excited to update the State Board of California on its progress towards launching this Fall.

Facilities- Through the Prop 39 process, MLBLA has worked with SFSUD staff to identify a space that MLBLA will be able to launch its founding class. Earlier this month, SFUSD offered a co-location with San Francisco Montessori (2340 Jackson, San Francisco, CA 94115) in the Pacific Height location in San Francisco. One highlight of the space is that Booker Academy will operate on the 4th floor and operate without disruption. A concern is that the Pacific Heights neighborhood is significantly farther away from the communities of the Bayview, Mission and Visitation Valley that the school was intended to serve. The MLBLA team is looking into transportation options that include public transit, carpooling and Booker Academy vans to support students arriving at school on time. This change in location has caused MLBLA to consider alternative enrollment and budget plans for the founding year. More details below in the enrollment section.

Hiring- MLBLA is excited to have hired its founding Director of Operations, Office Manager, and 3/5ths of its founding teaching staff. MLBLA has conducted its 2nd interview day where the team coordinated with New School San Francisco and One Purpose charter schools to meet with potential candidates. With offer letters currently out to potential candidates, the MLBLA team feels confident that it will be fully staffed with credentialed teachers.

Enrollment- MLBLA is excited to have 90 families currently registered for the inaugural 2019-2020 class. The team has held Welcome parties and Design team meetings to continue to engage families as we prepare for the Fall.

In terms of progress, the team saw a reduction in applicants after the change in a school location. Most families top concern is how to get to the new school location as many families anticipated that the school site would be in South East San Francisco. MLBLA continues to meet with families in the Bayview, Mission and Visitation Valley to establish transportation plans for this Fall.



Also, with the new location, the MLBLA team has extended its outreach to neighborhoods closer to the school site in Pacific Heights. Areas such as the Tenderloin and Filmore have families who have been historically underserved similar to the families currently registered.

Curriculum- MLBLA's team has worked diligently to develop the curriculum necessary for the start of the school year. So far, the team has a scope and sequence along with online materials for each subject. The teachers who have been hired have started to work on their units for this Fall. The goal is to have most of the units developed and prepared before the launch of the school.

Special Education- MLBLA is currently in stage 2 of the application process for El Dorado SELPA. The MLBLA team is confident that they will be able to partner with El Dorado to support our students with disabilities. Also, MLBLA is working with Seneca Family agencies to help with Special Education service providers. Seneca and MLBLA are working together to identify potential social workers and special education teachers for the founding school year.

Funding- MLBLA continues to work with the New School Venture Fund to secure the Launch grant funding. This grant would be given to MLBLA during its first three years of operation. In addition, MLBLA is finalizing a grant for an after-school STEM program that would be sponsored by Microsoft. The grant would cover the salary for two Academic Coaches who would run the program and work with the MLBLA team.

Community engagements- The MLBLA team recently had an event at the Women's building in San Francisco welcoming new families. It was exciting to have the founding families participate in the launch of the school and for the team to hear from the families.