

SOJOURNER
TRUTH
montessori
public charter school

2020-2021 Annual Report

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Board Chair during SY2020-2021: Ms. Sarah Navarro

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Annual Report Narrative

I. School Description

A. Mission Statement:

Truth's mission is to empower students to transform the world. Students at Truth will graduate ready for success in college, career, and life. They will serve as active agents in the construction of peace. They will know who they are, what they want, and where they are going. They can walk into any space, find their place, and make a powerful contribution. Truth will achieve this through a Montessori education that fosters student-led classrooms through appropriate environmental structure, enables students to engage in meaningful work with real world applications, and offers a close-knit community where students pursue justice and practice stewardship.

B. School Program:

1. Summary of curriculum design and instructional approach:

The Sojourner Truth School builds on the Montessori commitment to deep, personalized learning through carefully designed classroom environments and freedom within limits. We expand this time-tested model into secondary education by combining an emphasis on personalized learning with an understanding of the skills and tools that a diverse population of middle schoolers (and high schoolers in 2022-2023) need to be successful students, leaders, and citizens. Specifically, we meet adolescents' developmental need for authentic social interaction and meaningful work with real-life applications.

All aspects of Truth - from instructional model, to physical environment, to school culture - are anchored by our four core values: (1) Honor self development, (2) Pursue justice everywhere, (3) Design for positive impact, and (4) Challenge the mind, body, and spirit.

2. Parent involvement efforts

Truth has monthly Community Meetings and School-Home-Association Meetings at which guardians and parents are invited and encouraged to engage on topics including academic achievement, school development, the planning of school events, and Montessori philosophy. In addition, two members of Truth's Board of Trustees are parents.

II. School Performance

A. Performance and Progress

1. The extent to which the school is meeting its mission

2020-2021 was Truth's first year of operation, and despite the challenges of the pandemic we were proud of our accomplishments and the progress made towards meeting our mission. All four of our core content teachers either hold AMI/AMS Montessori diplomas or are in programs to earn them. In addition, average RIT growth on the NWEA MAP test showed over a full year's growth in both math and reading for our founding 6th grade classes. Achievement gaps in NWEA MAP math were narrowed over the course of the year for at-risk students compared to their peers, EL students compared to their peers, and students with disabilities compared to their peers. In NWEA MAP reading, gaps were narrowed over the course of the year for at-risk students compared to their peers and EL students compared to their peers. Students also launched our on-campus farm, building both raised garden beds and supporting the construction of our chicken coop.

2. The extent to which the school is meeting its goals and academic achievement expectations in its charter

Truth has adopted the PMF as goals, and also has a teacher credentialing goal that, by year 5, 80% of core content teachers will either hold a secondary Montessori teaching credential or be enrolled in an AMI/AMS credentialing program. During SY2020-2021, of our 4 core content teachers, 75% are enrolled in an AMS secondary Montessori credentialing program. The remaining teacher holds an

AMI Montessori credential and will soon be taking coursework to earn a secondary credential.

With respect to the PMF, Truth used the NWEA MAP assessment for BOY, MOY, and EOY testing but was not able to take the PARCC assessment. Our In-Seat Attendance rate was 91.58%, and our Re-enrollment rate was 92.05%.

B. Unique Accomplishments

Sojourner Truth PCS was approved to be the District’s first public Montessori middle and high school, and hosted the 2021 D.C. Montessori Conference. Truth has diverse enrollment, was one of only a few schools to open with cohorts of on-campus students at the start of SY2020-2021, and was the first school in D.C. to partner with a COVID-testing lab for free, on-site asymptomatic surveillance testing.

C. List of Donors

The following donors and grantors contributed monetary or in-kind donations having a value equal to or exceeding \$500 during the 2020-2021 school year: New Schools Venture Fund, CityBridge Education Foundation, Education Forward D.C., High Tech High, Caroline Hill, Atalie Jacobs, Sarah Navarro, Tina O’Connell, and Nathan Woods.

Data Report

Source	Data Point
GENERAL INFORMATION	
PCSB	LEA Name: The Sojourner Truth School PCS
PCSB	Campus Name: The Sojourner Truth School PCS
PCSB	Grades served: 6-7
PCSB	Overall Audited Enrollment: 91
STUDENT DATA POINTS	

School	Total number of instructional days: 182
PCSB	Suspension Rate: 0.0%
PCSB	Expulsion Rate: 0.00%
PCSB	Instructional Time Lost to Discipline: 0.00%
PCSB	In-Seat Attendance: 91.6%
PCSB	Average Daily Attendance: <i>(see audited enrollment, midyear withdrawals, midyear entries, and in-seat attendance)</i>
PCSB	Midyear Withdrawals: 1.1%
PCSB	Midyear Entries: 1.1%
PCSB	Promotion Rate: N/A
PCSB (SY19-20)	Graduation Rate: N/A
PCSB (SY19-20)	College Acceptance Rate: N/A
School (SY19-20)	College Admission Test Scores: N/A

TEACHER/ADMIN DATA POINTS	
School	Teacher Attrition Rate: 16.7%
School	Number of Teachers: 12
School	Teacher Salary 1. Average: \$69,976 2. Range - Minimum: \$56,506 Maximum: \$80,000
School	Executive Compensation Salaries (including bonuses) of the five most highly compensated individuals in the organization, if over \$100,000): \$115,000 (executive director), \$110,000 (principal)

Appendices

a. Staff roster for 2020-2021

Ana Yanez, English as a Second Language Teacher

Brian Massey, Enterprise Coordinator

Christine Contreras-Slaughter, STEM Teacher

Denise Edwards, Principal

Gabriella Abbondanza, Humanities Teacher

Jessica Gonzalez, Special Education Coordinator

Johari Malik, STEM Teacher

Johnelle Green, Counselor

Joseph Waller, Physical Education Teacher

Justin Lessek, Executive Director

Malik Wheeler, Operations Manager

Missy LeDoux, Special Education Teacher

Riley Inge, Special Education Teacher

Rodger Perkins, Humanities Teacher

Ryan Abel, Director of Operations

Sharon Green, Office Manager

Simonica Mendes, Special Education Teacher

Tevin Whitlock, Special Education Teacher

Tyecia Powell, Wellness Coordinator

AGGREGATE DATA: 94.7% of Truth PCS staff during SY20-21 held bachelor's degrees, and 57.9% of Truth PCS staff held Master's degrees

b. Board roster for 2020-2021

Sarah Navarro, Board Chair and D.C. resident

Wendy Pugh, Board Vice-Chair and D.C. resident

Atalie Jacobs, Chair of Governance Committee

Jonathan O'Connell, Board Secretary and D.C. resident

Craig Robinson, Board Treasurer and D.C. resident

Donice Leak, Truth parent and D.C. resident

Laura Masimini, Truth parent and D.C. resident

Caroline Hill, D.C. resident

Richard Pohlman, D.C. resident

Emily Hedin, D.C. resident

Marlena McWilliams, D.C. resident

Kiva Zytnick, D.C. resident

c. Unaudited Year 2020-21 Financial Statement

See next page...

Income Statement

Sojourner Truth

July 2020 through June 2021

Income Statement		
Revenue		
	State and Local Revenue	1,903,497
	Federal Revenue	433,396
	Private Grants and Donations	475,765
	Earned Fees	65
	<u>Total Revenue</u>	<u>2,812,723</u>
Expenses		
	Salaries	1,353,367
	Benefits and Taxes	282,967
	Staff-Related Costs	9,206
	Rent	330,000
	Occupancy Service	16,054
	Direct Student Expense	124,006
	Office & Business Expense	171,785
	Contingency	0
	<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>2,287,386</u>
Operating Income		525,337
Extraordinary Expenses		
	Depreciation and Amortization	30,671
	<u>Total Extraordinary Expenses</u>	<u>30,671</u>
Net Income		494,666

d. Approved 2021-22 Budget

See next page...

SY21-22 Budget

Sojourner Truth

July 2021 through June 2022

SY21-22	
Revenue	
State and Local Revenue	3,343,577
Federal Revenue	783,603
Private Grants and Donations	315,250
Earned Fees	20,389
Revenue Total	4,462,818
Expenses	
Salaries	2,363,508
Benefits and Taxes	586,139
Staff-Related Costs	12,846
Rent	446,000
Occupancy Service	19,191
Direct Student Expense	447,208
Office & Business Expense	304,468
Contingency	44,628
Expenses Total	4,223,988
NET ORDINARY INCOME	238,830
Extraordinary Expenses	
Depreciation and Amortization	55,633
Extraordinary Expenses Total	55,633
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,279,621
NET INCOME	183,197