

# **Bright Water Elementary Annual Report**

## **School district #4189-07**

### **2009-2010**

#### **Second Operational Year**

#### **Table of Contents:**

Introduction	Page 1
Mission and Vision	Page 2
Governance	Page 2
Administration	Page 3
Management	Page 3
Staff	Page 3
Innovative Practices	Page 4
Student Enrollment	Page 4
Academic Program	Page 5
Academic Performance	Page 5
Program Challenges	Page 5
Financials	Page 5-6
Authorizer	Page 7

**Introduction** Although this was just our second operating year, we are always looking to the future. This year Bright Water Elementary participated in strategic planning to assure we build on our strengths and minimize challenges. The state funding holdback is a formidable barrier to economic stability. To meet this challenge we set an aggressive fund balance goal and we worked with our preschool program to assure maximum financial stability. We crafted a new mission and vision for our school which reflect who we are and who we wish to be. We look toward a positive future in North Minneapolis creating a peaceful environment where students are active engaged learners. It is a pleasure to share this report with our families, our employees, our sponsor and the commissioner. We appreciate the support of the state of Minnesota, our families, and our lease holder, Minneapolis Public schools.

We worked to create the best academic and social environments for our diverse group of students and staff. In the school's second year we increased enrollment significantly and added many staff. We were the recipients of a Walton Grant which we have used to enhance educational opportunities for students. We hired staff to work with our ELL students and students who were behind grade level, but not necessarily eligible for Special education services. We enhanced our language instruction for all students. We reached out to families and enlarged our parent education offerings. We realized 95% parent participation in our social events and 90% participation in Parent Teacher conferences. Our parent satisfaction survey indicated that parents are very satisfied with the instruction and treatment of their students. They felt that both they and their children are respected. Parents are less happy with the physical facility. Many would like to see the school moved to a different building that is better suited to our needs.

**Mission (adopted May 2010):** Bright Water inspires passion for learning in an intentionally diverse Montessori community.

**Vision:** Bright Water seeks to be a school without an achievement gap and a model for North Minneapolis. Bright Water School is inspired by the educational philosophy of Maria Montessori and sets high expectations for all children. In partnership with parents we guide children to develop their individual gifts while preparing them for life in a cooperative community and a changing world. We nurture independence, a love of learning, cooperation, creative thinking, and respect for self, others and the environment.

**Governance:**

Bright Water has an active board that provides great oversight of our school in all areas. We have monthly meetings and invite our community to come. We established a committee system to accomplish more. We have not yet had formal board elections as we are in only our second year of operation. The following chart indicates our members.

Board Member	Term Began	Term to End	Committees	Contact
Ann Luce Head of School	Standing	Standing	Fundraising Finance	612-302-3410 BW 612-432-6243 cell
Anne Schuerger Chair	1/08	6/11	Personnel Finance	651-695-9270 home 651-497-5775 cell
Anne Caswell Community Member	1/08	6/10	Finance	763-242-3677 cell
Lisa Waller Secretary/ Teacher	1/08	6/10	Fundraising	612-302-3410 BW 651-357-5306 cell
Elizabeth Badillo- Moorman Treasurer Parent	1/08	6/11	Fundraising Finance	612-302-3410 BW 612-203-3378 cell
Paula Letourneau Community Member	1/08	6/10	Personnel	612-588-3599 W
Kim Stout Teacher	7/08	6/11	Facilities	612-202-6842 cell
Jon Osmond Parent	5/09	Resigned 6/15/10	IT and Website	612-789-2209 home 612-202-7713 cell
JJ Haywood Parent	5/09	6/11	Facilities	612-554-1955
Martine Smaller Start up Coordinator	Standing	Standing	Facilities Fundraising	612-302-3410 BW 612-735-5456 cell

## Administration and Management

Bright Water has a director of school, Ann Luce, who is employed part time and is also the director of the Preschool program, Bright Water Montessori which is housed with the charter elementary school. Ann is responsible for staff education and staff reviews, reporting to the state, compliance, student discipline, parent engagement and making sure we are living our mission. Martine Smaller is our Start Up coordinator and is now known as the Elementary Coordinator. Martine has handled the Federal Grant, MARS reporting, transportation, elementary field trips and budgets. Our board member, Elizabeth Badillo Moorman does our HR. Bright Water contracts with School Business Solutions to do our financials and UFARS reporting. At this time, Ann Luce has a teaching license but not an administrator's license. At this time, we are working with the Center for School Change and Cargill in a Leadership Development grant program. This will provide our administrators with training and mentorship. The board has determined that the director will continue to do relevant training and development, but that an administrator's license is not at this time necessary.

## Staff

Bright Water is fortunate to have a talented and diverse staff. All our staff have 4 year degrees, teaching certificates completed or in process, and Montessori training. Staff are evaluated and observed twice yearly by administrators.

### 2009-10 Teaching Faculty Information

Name	File Folder Number	Assignment/ Subject	Left During 09-10	Not Returning 10-11
Benachour, Malika	447869	Spanish Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Heyne, Bradley	413693	Elementary Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Leon, Alma Leticia	998108	Kindergarten Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luce, Ann	277710	Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luitjens, September	998235	Montessori Specialist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marchwick, Kelly	452445	ELL Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secor, Tonia	383793	Kindergarten Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Udomah, Melissa	433659	Special Education Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waller, Lisa	450631	Elementary Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Innovative Practices and Implementation

Bright Water is a high quality Montessori school and all classroom teaching staff have 4 year degrees and Montessori training as well as teaching certificates. Our curriculum is unified as is our goal to reach under-served communities. We are committed to helping all children reach their potential. We believe that the child and his or her needs are the central and commanding focus of the learning process. It is the role of the school to observe, to know and to defend the child as he or she proceeds through the stages of development. We see in each child the future of our society, of our nation and of our planet. The child in the process of fundamental development has unlimited possibilities and the future rests on our ability to cultivate these potentials.

The Montessori program is a highly structured classroom in which children have the freedom to move about and choose work relating to lessons they have been given. Materials are beautiful and concrete, but purposeful. Abstract language, geometric, geographic, language and grammar concepts are presented in a concrete manner with manipulative materials. The teacher or guide is trained in giving lessons, evaluation through observation, and setting up the learning environment.

In the 2009-2010 school year we worked to assure that all students were achieving at or near their ability by offering a Montessori trained specialist to work with children behind grade level in reading and math. We also continued work using our Work Sampling system and aligning it with both state standards and our Montessori materials to develop a comprehensive evaluation system.

## Student Enrollment and Attrition Rates

*This table identifies the number of students enrolled at the school during the 2008-09, 2009-10, and estimated 2010-2011 enrollment. Data is based on October 1 Average Daily Membership.*

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Attrition Rate
2008-09	19	19	6											
2009-10	20	18	20	6										
Estimated 2010-11	22	15	20	19	5									

Each year we have gained students and each year we are adding a grade until 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We did lose one 4<sup>th</sup> grader who moved away this year. We have very good student retention and always a Kindergarten wait list. We are considering opening another kindergarten classroom.

## **Academic Program and Performance**

This year we had our first MCA testing with a small sample of students. Six students took the MCA tests of achievement and the overall score was 50% proficient in math and 67% proficient in reading. Of these students, 4 of 6 qualified for free or reduced lunch, and two of six had special needs. Our sample size was too small to be published by the state. We also had Work Sampling results that showed favorable gains made by our students over our first two years of existence.

## **Program Challenges**

Bright Water is first and foremost a high quality Montessori school committed to serving low income and challenged families. We have a slow growth pattern which is challenging in terms of having the amount of students needed to have a significant fund balance. The hold back of state funding has been very challenging to our small school. It is nearly impossible for a small school to create a 30% fund balance, and while we have had federal and Walton grant funding for the past few years, we face difficult budget decisions in the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years. The North Minneapolis neighborhood that we are in can also be challenging as it is a high crime neighborhood. It is a deterrent for families in safer neighborhoods to send their children.

## **Financials**

In the 2009-10 school year Bright Water Elementary won a School Finance award. We are pleased to know that we will again win this award with a total fund balance of \$116,776. We are working hard to be financially viable in a difficult fiscal environment. We have been assured of a loan if we need one from the Non-Profit Assistance fund. We have also been fortunate to still have the Federal Start Up grant and a Walton Grant. We are aware that the next few years may be financially challenging.

These are the financial statements prepared by School Business Solutions for our Annual Report:

**Bright Water Elementary**  
**Balance Sheet**  
For the Year Ending June 30, 2010

Descriptions	General Operating Fund	Food Service Fund	Fixed Assets	Total
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Franklin Bank - Checking Account	11,180	1,783	-	12,943
Associated Bank - Checking Account	1,000	-	-	1,000
Associated Bank - Money Market Account	92,654	-	-	92,654
Due from MDE	183,048	-	-	183,048
Due from Federal	24,149	-	-	24,149
Prepaid Expenditures	12,679	-	-	12,679
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>324,710</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>326,473</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Equipment	-	-	9,701	9,701
Accum. Depreciation - Equipment	-	-	(970)	(970)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,731</b>	<b>8,731</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>324,710</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>8,731</b>	<b>335,204</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Fund Balance</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Salaries Payable	19,771	-	-	19,771
Accounts Payable	18,470	1,783	-	20,233
FICA Payable	1,512	-	-	1,512
TRA Payable	1,048	-	-	1,048
PERA Payable	50	-	-	50
Long Term Disability Payable	126	-	-	126
Health FSA	(89)	-	-	(89)
Day Care FSA	963	-	-	963
Advanced Pay	(23)	-	-	(23)
Deferred Revenue	174,838	-	-	174,838
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>216,665</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>218,429</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>				
Investment Fixed Assets	-	-	8,731	8,731
Fund Balance - 6/30/2009	49,973	-	-	49,973
FY10 Net Income	58,072	-	-	58,072
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>108,045</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,731</b>	<b>116,776</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balance</b>	<b>324,710</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>8,731</b>	<b>335,204</b>

**Footnote: Estimated State Holdback Calculation:**

Total Fiscal Year School Budgeted State Revenues (ADM 66)	576,389
Prorated Fiscal Year-to-Date (12 of 12 months)	100%
Total Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget (June 2010)	576,389
State Holdback Percentage	27%
<b>Total Estimated Year-to-Date Holdback</b>	<b>155,625</b>

### Sponsor Information

<b>Sponsor name</b>	<b>Contact information</b>	<b>Sponsor liaison</b>	<b>Contract Termination date</b>
Audubon Center of the North Woods	<a href="mailto:charter@audubon-center.org">charter@audubon-center.org</a> 888-404-7743	Steve Dess	6/30/2011

Bright Water has a positive relationship with the sponsor, Audubon Center of the North woods. Our representative, Steve Dess, is available when we need him and comes to board meetings several times a year. Steve was also available when Bright Water Elementary administrators were interviewed by the Walton Foundation and helped us make the case for our grant request. BWE staff have attended several events and informational charter conferences at Audubon Center of the North woods. We look forward to continuing a positive relationship with our sponsor.