



Memorandum

Date: January 27, 2022
To: Business Committee
From: Jennifer Curless
Subject: Professional Development Speaker

While working on our school improvement grant with the Harlem Middle School division chairs, a suggestion was brought forward regarding professional development and how to best reach all of our students, and build relationships especially our most difficult ones. A few of our staff members attended the Raising Student Achievement Conference. While at the conference they had the opportunity to witness Monica Genta during a session breakout. They suggested we pursue Monica Genta. Below is a description of what Ms. Genta will be covered in a three hour training on March 11th during School Improvement Day. Ms. Genta's fee for three hours is \$4,250.

Education is evolving where no longer reading, writing and arithmetic are the foundations of learning. Learning is now rooted in relationships, relationships and most importantly relationships. Staff will focus on relationship building with staff and students. They will engage in engaging strategies, strategic ideas and motivational tips that are all easy to implement right away. After the PD training, staff members will engage in a book study with her book "The Rooted Classroom"

Monica Genta is an Illinois Educator who has a published book called *Game Changer* about innovative and effective strategies to use in the classroom to engage students. Monica Genta has also performed a TedTalk and provides professional development to educators. As a follow-up to the training provided by Monica Genta, the Middle School will also purchase her book through the School Improvement Grant to build upon and strengthen the strategies they learn through the professional development offered on March 11, 2022.

I would like to formally request the approval to accept the \$4,250 contract with Monica Genta to provide virtual professional development to Harlem Middle School about building strong relationships and social-emotional learning connections. The funding source for this professional development will be Title II.

[Monica Genta Quote for PD for HMS on 3/11/22](#) paid for through Title II.



A Community of Leaders

Harlem Middle School 735 Windsor Road, Loves Park 61111 (815) 654-4510 (815) 654-4540 (fax)