

School Improvement Team Meeting—October 21, 2015

Attendance: Staff Representatives: Essentials--Beth Lanzy; Kindergarten – Beverly Garcia (for Brittany Ackerman); 1st Grade- Trisha Rendes (for Karen Hinson-Mullis); 2nd grade--Angela McAuley; 3rd grade--Kerry Plyler; 4th grade--Corey Ackerman; 5th grade--John McAuley; Federal Programs-- Lydia Lorenzo; Exceptional Children—Cecilia Broecker (for Olenma Alvarez); Teacher Assistants—Meg Bell; Administrators--Jeffery Stout and Blaire Traywick;
Parent Representatives: 2nd Grade-Kelly Stegall; 3rd grade-Tiffany Pratt; 5th Grade—Dana Brown

2:28 Welcome; sharing of agenda; and approval of September 16, 2015's meeting minutes.

School Wide Homework Policy:

- Mr. Stout shared the results to the Homework Survey completed by 51 teachers and curriculum staff. The results revealed that less than half the staff agreed homework is valuable and needed. It also showed that the homework could be adding to the confusion of concepts and frustrate students and families that want to help but can't. The survey revealed that the homework was not getting completed due to extenuating variables that the student has no control over and/or being completed by someone else. The survey asked if BHESA could support up to 30 minutes of reading per night and 20 minutes of math fact-based homework.
- Input about homework was shared from SIT grade level, parent and department representatives.
- It was decided that one hour is the maximum amount of homework to be given per night for reading, reading response, word study, and math. Grade levels will do 20 minutes of math facts-based homework and the reading homework can be a maximum of 40 minutes (or appropriate by grade level/AIG).
- Mrs. Traywick mentioned there is a restricted allotment of money for parent involvement. We may be able to use this money to purchase things like flash cards for the parents to support the facts based homework.

Input for the Calendar Committee is due October 22nd

- Mrs. Traywick asked for input about the district bringing back the Bank Days/Early Release Days that allow for staff to attend Professional Development. The district is wanting 4 days. Parents expressed a concern with the flexibility of their jobs being an issue, parents working double jobs...

Plan of School Improvement

- As a part of the recently signed budget bill, the General Assembly made some changes to the definition of a "Low Performing School", and has given some specific guidance and direction to these schools and districts. BHESA has been designated as a low performing school by the NC State Board of Education.
- Low performing schools are those that receive a school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth or "not met expected growth." The school performance grades are based on student achievement and growth. BHESA received an overall school grade of a D and we did not meet expected growth. As a low performing school and in accordance with General Statute 115C-

105.37, we are required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how we will improve both the performance grade and school growth score. This plan is on our website, under the "About our School" tab. The plan is titled, Plan for School Improvement."

- Mrs. Traywick will present the Plan for School Improvement to the Curriculum Committee, a subgroup of UCPS's Board of Education, now on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. This plan is similar to the School Improvement Plan, yet an extension.

Concerns:

Kindergarten concerns: None

1st grade concerns: None

2nd grade concerns: None

3rd grade concerns: 3rd grade dismisses in the afternoon from the Essentials hallway and goes down the stairs. Please have students that go to Show Choir or Strings use the ramp side of the Essentials' building instead of the stairs to eliminate a traffic jam.

4th grade concerns: Recommendation to have a hospitality committee to acknowledge special events. School sends flowers to life events. Many showers have been happening. Can there be a sign in station/clock in computer in the green room? **(No sign in station will be put in the green room as you will need to check your mailbox anyway)** It was mentioned that the door to enter the main building near the Dance room is sometimes still locked in the early mornings thus, staff not being able to clock in when they arrive. They then have to go back down before students arrive in their classrooms. **Mrs. Traywick will look into having the door unlocked—custodians are now to do.**

5th grade concerns: None

EC concerns: None

TA concerns: TA's are adjusting to a new schedule.

Essentials concerns: If you plan to be absent and need a laptop for the substitute please request a laptop at least a day before the absence. This way it is ready in the morning when the substitute comes to your classroom. Also, substitutes have their own username and password to login on the school computers. Please write in your substitute plans to see Mrs. Lanzy in the media center if they need to still create a password to log in on the school computers.

Federal Programs concerns: None

Parent concerns: None

Next meeting- Nov.18th

Please send agenda items to Corey Ackerman.

Adjourned: 3:20