



**NEW TOWN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
-SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM-

Date: February 14, 2022
Start Time- 2:30p
Adjournment- 3:42p

Team Members: Barbara Fiallo, K; Cheryl Bowman, 1st; Danielle Thompson, 2nd; Patricia Sherman, 3rd; Emily Reyes, 4th; Brooke Thomas, 5th; Stefanie Olszewski, Instructional Support; Dana Crump, EC; Ann Jacobs, AIG; Renee Cunningham, Specials; Melissa Gibson, Teacher Assistant; Kate Hall, Parent; Tracy James, Parent; Rachel Martin, Parent; John Willis, Parent; Catherine Perry, Principal; Lindsey Williams, Assistant Principal

Today's Absences/Substitutes: Absent, P. Sherman – Substitute, D. Cook; Absent, John Willis – Substitute, n/a

Meeting Guest(s): Jessica Garner, Director College Readiness/Dual Language Immersion Program

Meeting Topics and Desired Outcomes:

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – ✓
 - Renee Cunningham, approved
 - Tracy James, seconded
 - No refusals
2. Principal's Update Statement – ✓
 - NTES is announcing new Spanish Immersion Program beginning school year 2022-2023 for Kindergarten. Information set to release to public late February 2022. *Presentation to follow.
3. Media/Technology Advisory Committee (MTAC) Update – ✓
 - At this time there are no new updates from MTAC.
4. Dual Language Immersion Program, One-Way, Spanish – ✓
 - Jessica Garner, of UCPS, shared the programming outline for NTES's future DLI Program
 - * In immersion programs, students are immersed into another language through study of core academic content areas such as language arts, math, science and social studies. The new language (Spanish) is the medium of instruction as well as the object of instruction. Meaning, content is taught through language: the staff and students will speak, read, and write in the new language.
 - * Goal of DLI is to educate students in rigorous setting while upholding three main pillars of belief: becoming bilingual and biliterate; becoming culturally and globally aware; having strong academic performance and cognitive gains
 - * Students enter the program through a lottery conducted during the kindergarten registration process.
 - *Participation in DLI Program is a long-term, intensive, commitment for families.
 - *There are potential staffing impacts for NTES as program grows and develops.
5. Other Business – ✓
 - One School, One Book: The timing of book (read-aloud) has been questioned by some staff; could it be moved to another time of year? Staff is requesting feedback regarding timeline.
 - Picture Day(s): Staff is asking if 'Picture Day Times' can be assigned by front office as opposed to teacher(s) selecting times? Often, due to the "first come first serve" nature of the sign-up process, times needed for classrooms to function effectively are eliminated, and teachers have to select undesirable timelines.
 - School "Months": Teacher shared an experience with a parent in their classroom, seeking feedback and ideas on how to approach "Monthly" designations (Black History Month, Women's History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, etc.). Parent requested information from teacher on what NTES was doing wholistically to recognize monthly celebrations. Response was/is/will continue to be that these monthly celebrations are left to teacher discretion. It is a known fact,

Future Meeting Dates: March 14, April 11, May 9

that many teachers do an admirable job of celebrating each of these monthly designations. NTES is going to continue to allow staff their freedom in celebrating as they deem appropriate for their age and understanding level.

- Breakfast: When will breakfast be returning to cafeteria? .. Very soon!
- Lunch: When will lunch be returning to cafeteria? .. Very soon!
- Recess: When will recess time be returning to a “co-mingle” status? (Allowing kids from multiple classrooms to interact freely) .. Very soon!

6. Final Note – ✓

- None addressed