

CATA School Improvement Team Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 30th, 2012

Present: Dr. Shaun Poole, Principal, Adam Dailey, Senior parent representative, Christa Dailey, Senior parent representative, Deb Watts, Junior parent representative, Dale Ann Plyler, Freshman parent representative, Miranda Calandro, Science Teacher, Deb Cochran, Math Teacher, Shari Davison, Guidance, Audrey Fowler, Math Teacher, Elaine Holeman, CTE Teacher, Jennifer Owen, CTE Teacher, Jeff Weis, Technical Theater Teacher, and Parker Colbath, Sophomore Class President

Dr. Poole stated that we must rewrite our school improvement plan and our accreditations for the upcoming year (county will be accredited, not CATA individually)

EOC/IMS Testing and Graduation Rate

Testing Dates – We just finished 1st semester (3 EOC's were given along with IMS exams for all of our CTE courses)

Algebra I – tested 105 students, only 7 students scored a level 2 (all others were 3's and 4's) = 94% passage rate

These 7 students were remediated all last week, they will be taking make-up's tomorrow

Biology—tested 75 students, only 3 scored a level 2 (all others were 3's and 4's) = 96% passage rate

These 3 students were remediated all last week and they will retest on Friday

English I – tested 105 students, only 1 scored a level 2 (all others were 3's and 4's), this student has already retested and passed, thus Eng I is now at 100% passage rate!!! Congrats!

This semester EOC testing:

In Biology we originally had 5 sections scheduled. Every school was allotted one extra teacher for this semester – we opted to hire an extra Biology teacher with this allotment. Mr. Robert Harris is joining CATA this semester (40+ years experience as a Biology teacher at Piedmont)

With the addition of this extra teacher, Biology has now been broken up into 9 sections – most of these sections have only 15-18 students / class

English I has 4 sections this semester

Alg 1 has only 2 sections this semester

IMS tests for the CTE courses – most are 90% or above

(Upper level IMS test scores must be 76% and above to be passing)

There are some CTE courses which do not take State IMS tests -- they take teacher-made final exams

Mr. Norris is our drop-out prevention coordinator

No failures due to absences 1st semester

Graduation rate is thus still on track to be 100% again this year!!

Budget Items

Dr. Poole is receiving federal money from Dr. Webb to be spent on technology

Core content teachers have been asked what technology would help them the most

#1 priority is SmartBoards in all classrooms

Should be able to ensure that every core content teacher has a SmartBoard by the beginning of the next school year

Next year, every freshman student and every freshman teacher will have a laptop

In fall of next year, all 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade teachers will be receiving a laptop

Unclear on when next year's 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students will be receiving laptops, if ever...

Question: do desktop computers need to be updated since all teachers will be receiving all new laptops?? Need to evaluate and decide

We will be taking in about 220 freshmen next year

Dr. Webb is currently in charge of technology for Union County (previous leader is now a principal at East Elementary)

Senior Plans

Dr. Poole met with PTSO to discuss senior plans

He also met with the Graduation and Yearbook committees to discuss senior plans

Senior activities will occur M-Th during the senior week with a Friday trip to Carowinds (at a cost of \$45-\$50/student – includes ticket into park, \$13 for picnic put on by the park, and bus fees. The students will pay for this trip themselves)

Thursday's activity will be a yearbook signing party

Activities for M-W have not been determined/finalized yet

Senior Week will held the week of May 21st

AP exams will be given during May 7th – May 17th

Senior gifts -- PTSO has found senior medallions for \$2 – the medallions would be the same for all the academies, but the ribbons would be different. There is also the option of buying a pin to put on their academic letters. Brief discussion was held among SIT committee members and the majority expressed that they favored the medallions over pins.

Last year the medallions were \$9-10 per piece but the venue (Wingate University) for graduation was free

This year's venue for graduation is \$4500, so we need to cut costs somewhere

Parent rep reported that senior students have confided in her that they do not feel that their voice is being heard and that decisions are being made without their input. She encouraged the seniors to talk to administration, not to just complain amongst themselves. They complained to her that seniors last year got things done for them throughout the year and nothing has been done so far for them. They were also upset about prom being so early this year.

Dr Poole's commented that during his "needs assessment" with CATA teachers throughout the summer, all teachers reported they did not like how much administration interrupted classroom time in previous years and this request has affected some of the senior privileges given in the past.

Dr. Poole also stated that the decision was made by the teachers at the beginning of the school year to have only 1 pep rally, 1 student assembly in fall and 1 pep rally 1 student assembly in spring

Prom at speedway was free the past few years due to Ms. Jennifer Clark's connection with the company. It would now be \$3500 to rent. Multiple venues were researched. Rolling Hills (\$1100) was the only venue which was available and reasonably priced. Parents are happy due to it being a closer venue. Piedmont HS is having their prom the weekend after at this same location. Having the prom so early will also spread the costs out throughout the spring.

Dr. Poole states that students have requested selling the suckers again – they have also asked for homework passes. Dr. Poole is not willing to give the homework passes.

Deb Cochran states that juniors have complained to her that they were supposed to take care of the prom and the decisions have been made without them. Dr. Poole states that theme was voted on by juniors but that some juniors told their friends and then some seniors found out what the theme was, so the theme was changed to maintain the secrecy. The students who originally voted on the theme are upset that their work has been tossed out. Dr. Poole asks that teachers/parents/SIT members take down student names, their complaints, and send them directly to him in the future.

Next year's prom venue is currently being researched to help ensure a better date selection. Mr. Tarlton, Ms. Gatica, and Ms. Brooks are currently working on it. Student body president Kamila Deese is also involved.

Exam Exemptions

Exams exemption rules are determined by the Board of Education and are not up for discussion

If you are a student taking a regular teacher-made exam, you are exempt if you:

Have 3 or less absences and A avg

Are a senior and have a B avg and 2 or less absences

Are a senior and have a C avg and 1 or less absences

No student can exempt an EOC or IMS exam

Exemptions are definitely a motivator to get students to school

Ms. Holeman expressed a complaint that CTE elective courses are not exemptable according to CTE downtown

Parent rep stated he did not like the C average exemption

NC Wise Parent Portal

Currently parent portal may still be happening – passwords for parents are in the mail

Parents will be able to log into the computer system and see the current grades for their child

When the passwords come in, each family is assigned 2 passwords, one for mom and one for dad

Mother must pick up hers, father must pick up his – must show photo ID to pick up passwords

Mom cannot pick up both, father cannot pick up both

Will have to arrange a date for parents to pick this up? Open house? Bank Day?

Dr. Poole's guess on date this will be happening is during the 5th grading period

Dr. Poole's fear is that no one has been trained → mess across the board

Password will probably be passed out with a sheet of directions

Dr. Poole will need help from dept heads to help ensure that all teachers of the same subjects have similar weighting systems and # of grades

Will be issues regarding how quickly / often grades are put in and updated

Ms. Owen's states her husband has been using the system in CMS – some issues re: parents getting info on the wrong child, parents seeing different grade on their end then the teachers can see.

Open forum

Holeman – lack of good water flow and warm water in bathrooms is health issue – Ms. Owen states she has asked about this situation and was told that there was a boiler that was broken that was too expensive to repair. Dr. Poole states to ask Mr. Pusser to put in a work order.

Next Meeting Date

Monday, Feb 27th – in media center conference room