

## CATA School Improvement Team Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Present: Dr. Poole, Deb Watts, Michelle Tuttle, Jeff Bunce, Miranda Calandro, Deb Christensen, Deb Cochran, Shari Davison, Lisa Eaton, Audrey Fowler, Elaine Holeman, Jeff Weis, Kamilah Deese, JC Knox and Parker Colbath.

Welcome and introductions were repeated due to new members in attendance.

- 1) How the school year is going: Our 1<sup>st</sup> in-house State mandated teacher workday took place this past Wednesday. We focused on updating and improving the teacher Moodle pages. Our goal is to make the Moodle pages more user/parent friendly. We want the pages to look more like websites and less like a list of bullets. The middle schoolers and their parents are used to using Moodle on a daily basis and having it available as a reference. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are getting their laptops in January (the current 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders already have theirs). Ms. White, Assistant Principal will be monitoring the teacher's progress with these updates and improvements.
- 2) Dept heads have been asked to brainstorm with their faculty to come up with ideas for tutoring for EOC's

Notes will be sent home with report cards for students who would benefit from tutoring (based on low scores on the benchmark exams)

Tutoring is available before and after school

Math dept – buying out planning periods, taking out 5-6 students out of class and providing one on one teaching

“Exam Slam” – after winter break there are 2 weeks before EOC's -- exam slam will take place after school (snacks/drinks will be provided) Rides home have been a problem in the past, so we may consider taking 10 minutes from each block (Mon – 1<sup>st</sup> block, Tues- 2<sup>nd</sup> block, Wed – 3<sup>rd</sup> block, Thur – 4<sup>th</sup> block) and have students report to tutoring during this time.

Meeting growth -- in order for CATA to meet growth, 60% of Alg I, Eng I, and Biology students have to make their predictor score. DPI uses several predictor software programs. EVOS gives a probability that a student will score a 3 or 4 on the exam (these programs factor information on the students all the way back from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade). All of the teachers have the predictor information on each of their students. Eng I made growth last year, Alg I did not and Biology did not make growth last year. This is not based on how many make 3's or 4's – it is based on whether or not they make their predictor scores. If we don't make growth, we won't be an Honor School of Excellence.

To help encourage students to do their best, we may consider challenging classes. If 70% of a class meets their predicted scores, then they will win a breakfast or some type of treat (don't want to have

competitions between classes because then there is a class that “loses”). In this way, every class can win.

### 3) New High School Accountability Model

Union County has one of the highest graduation rates within the state

Factors which may be considered for High School Accountability:

- Composite scores (3's and 4's) – these have not been a problem for CATA
- Growth/Predictor scores (meeting the DPI predicted score) – this is an issue for CATA
- Next year, ACT scores may replace 10<sup>th</sup> grade writing exam (more states accept the ACT than the SAT)
- Graduation rate
- Math course rigor (Algebra I and Algebra II – how many enrolled, and how many passed?) – very good possibility that an Algebra II exam may be coming in order to provide accountability
- Possibility of either removing the “labels” (Honors School, etc) from all the schools and/or possibility of labeling schools with an A,B,C,D, or F grade

This model will be voted on in January 2012

### 4) Teacher Observation Standards

Teachers are now accountable for 6 standards, principals for 8 standards

Not meeting growth will be tied into the teacher observation scores

### 5) Vacancies

3 vacancies

Mr. Chong, foreign language teacher, wife had surgery in Ecuador, she is experiencing a long recovery period and he can't leave her, therefore he has resigned his position. A licensed Spanish teacher has been filling in for him during his absence the past 3-4 weeks. Must open it up to 3 candidates, she will be at the top of the list.

May have a vacancy in medical science

May have a vacancy in band

May have a vacancy in teacher cadet

Most vacancies are due to illnesses

6) Dr. Poole met with Ms. Watts 2 weeks ago to discuss the desire for the entire senior class to be celebrated for their accomplishments, not just the top 10%. They have all completed 13 years of school and should be congratulated properly. Most senior privileges are usually done during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Graduation will be on Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup> at Cabarrus Arena at 7:30pm. Piedmont, Sun Valley, Porter Ridge, and CATA are splitting the bill – 4 hour time slots. This time slot will give time for family to get into town and get to the arena, time to eat dinner with family, etc. Plans for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester have not been solidified – senior week is in the works. Getting prices from Carowinds for a possible senior trip on Friday at the end of senior week. Different senior gifts are being considered – possibility of a picture frame for the diploma, asking for ideas from seniors. Possibly not doing medallions – getting opinions from students. Seniors are working on fund raising events. Ms. Watts reiterated that the seniors want to be sure that they “have a voice” in the decisions made re: senior week and graduation.

7) Global schools criteria rubric – assignment was to look over the rubric and to come up with any ideas to assist in CATA maintaining our International School status. Every year, the rubric becomes more difficult to achieve this status. Dr. Poole said that ideas can be emailed at any point during the year. Deb Christenson mentioned the points for having email/email news distribution postings at least twice a month – currently we only do this at the end of each grading period. Can the news be posted to the Facebook page? Dr. Poole will look into the parameters of this requirement. Possibility of linking this to the Moodle page parent portal for parents to “click here” for updates was brought up. Ms. Tuttle asked question regarding guest speakers – can CATA students be guest speakers at other schools? Rubric was clarified that the rubric specifies guest speakers coming to CATA, not students serving as guest speakers

8) Open Forum:

Next meeting date: Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 in the media center conference room

Meeting growth (Eng I, Alg I, Biology) is only counted on the first exam – retake scores will not count.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.