

School Improvement Team Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2014

Attendance:

x	Michael Fuga	Principal	x	Jenn Aguilar	Support Faculty
x	Lance Scott	Assistant Principal			Classified Staff Rep.
x	Lamont Tindley	Voyager Team			School Counselor
x	Amy Scott	Navigator Team	x	Kim Broadnax	Parent
x	Glenn Estacio	Pathfinder Team		Monique Hosley-Hyman	Parent
	Amie Pugh	Pioneer Team	x	Birshari Cox	Parent
x	Stacy Palen	Explorer Team	x	Terrence Scarborough	Parent
x	Aaron Campbell	Dreamseeker Team	x	Audra Simpson	Parent
	Cassie Abels	EC Teacher		Francelia Burwell	Parent
x	Brian Yarborough	Electives Teacher		Rachel Blouin	Parent Alternate
	Jenny Umbarger	Support Faculty			

Others in attendance: Laurie Brandenburg

Meeting was called to order at 3:25

Welcome, Happy New Year, Review of Minutes

Minutes are Available

Mrs. Broadnax and Mrs. Simpson will bring snacks April 21st.

Save your receipts for food and get reimbursed.

Principal's Update—

Not a ton has happened but Fuga did have to approve our report cards and will start putting out all of the data starting January 31st. He thinks. There may be questions and calls from parents and such. School suspensions and teacher turnover and such are on track via the stakeholders' survey. All things are headed in the right direction according to all data points according to Fuga. This is a long stretch for teachers and students. The third quarter is the longest of the year so be aware that this is a long haul. February 21st will be a dance. We invited Lakewood to the last dance but Fuga is thinking about including other schools to the dance. We are out next Monday for MLK day and again the Friday and Monday of Valentine's Day barring bad weather.

Goal Team Reports

Overall goal is to get ideas/ events for specific goals for each of our 4 targets. What resources and volunteer support.

Literacy Team- Aguilar- Big focus on THINK CALM strategies for writing implementation. One book, one school was brought up last year by Mrs. Simmons and this team would like to try to implement that. Will ask at faculty meeting to gauge buy-in from faculty. Also there would need to be some volunteers for that. Either the end of 3rd quarter or right before EOG. March would

be ideal. There would be some school-wide things in the works and if the grant has already passed, we might look to 2014-2015 school year if there is buy-in. Battle of the books and NC write are also mentioned as being good. The 6 traits of writing could also be implemented school-wide. Ronda Kay facilitates this program. Teachers would learn strategies in professional development and bring it back to their classrooms. Young authors night was also mentioned.

Math Team- Estacio- There is a similar test to SRI called SMI that gives a score saying where the kids are for math. It would be taken in a class period and the data would be available immediately. Over the past few meetings, we have discussed how to target kids for tutoring. Rowland's name has been mentioned a few times for her peer tutoring program. Also, there are Duke students who are available for math classes. After school programs offer challenges but a good idea. For that, Math teachers would stay after school one day a week and have kids stay for tutoring. Once there are test scores, we have things in place to reach kids for differentiation. Project based learning and computer based games were also mentioned as an alternative to normal classroom learning that could reach a certain set of children not hit through everyday classroom teaching. Dr. Logan would be a point of contact for project based learning over at Hillside. Also, 9th grade teachers could be sought out to learn how to best prepare for the next level. NCCU students have community service that is required so that could be an option. Anything computer based would help them in the future especially for math testing. In 2014-2015 all test will be given on computers. Khan Academy is great for math intervention especially for Hispanic population. This program focuses on basic math skills and sets them up well for higher level thinking in classrooms. SMI testing is already purchased. SMI would not help much with current 8th Graders but it would really help with 6th and 7th graders so that it helps with placements and other targeted intervention. Also the concern that too much testing was brought up.

Technology Team- Mr. Yarbrough- MTAC already has a TON of trainings on the books specifically geared for educators. It could open up to parents but Dov would need to be contacted for scheduling. He found it very helpful, the one on spreadsheets. It is poll based as in teachers were polled and asked what they need most help with and then the skills are scheduled based on that. It is held after school. Dov will also come during planning to help out with technology. Teacher training on these skills is translated to the classroom is the hope. Would it be beneficial for Dov to do any training with children? It would be hard because you have to target a specific skill and plan out what would be mastered. Teachers are the focus because so much money has been thrown in from the system and they want teachers to use it. Smartboards are \$2600 installed and there is a Smartboard or brightlink in each classroom in the school. There needs to be some sort of follow-up for the teachers who are going to the MTAC sessions. There has got to be some other engagement than the smartphones for kids. For example, in Microsoft word, lots of kids just use the space bar to center something on a page. Hines teaches some of these things as an elective so not every kid can take that class. We all agree that every kid could/should be exposed to technology in some way. Dov could also be used in this endeavor. Every kid needs to be exposed to basic computer programming and would feel like we provided them with a service in that realm. This tech goal is geared toward teachers but in order to be accomplished or distinguished on their evaluations one has to get

kids to also implement it into their lives also. What is the % of teachers who are proficient at technology? Fuga will have to see. Future goal is to get students involved in technology.

Positive Behavior Team- Mr. Scarborough- They met with Skinner and got an update on RAM BUCKS and RAMS ROCK. There was a proposal to consolidate these incentive programs. They are still working on the idea. Possibly establishing a school store that is geared toward a quality rather than a dollar amount. At the end of the month each student can spend that money at the store or they can keep it and be recognized as the RAM ROCKSTAR. Palen brought up that this plan might not reach the kids that we actually want to reach. Next PBIS meeting is the 21st and they need information from us by the 17th. Also the rewards are a little bit more valuable too such as game passes and having their picture up in the school for positive traits. Also, teachers are required to call at least one parent each week for positive behavior.

DPS Suspension Rate and DPS Community Conversations

Anybody could come to this meeting. African American males are disproportionately high as far as suspension rates go. There was good conversation and eye opening for both sides. There is also a gap in the mental health support. Also, there needs to be education for parents and students on what is acceptable in different arenas. They did not leave with a concrete answer but they focused on the resources and education for the kids and parents who are in this conversation. Mr. Scarborough had a different experience. There were a lot more parents at his meeting. The conversation was more geared toward consistency from administrators as far as what is suspend-able and what is not. Also there was a conversation about type casting or stereo-typing based on a child being labeled "bad kid". There needs to be support for EC teachers and resources for them. Having a counsel before every suspension was brought up. Fuga said there is not feasibly enough time and resources. There are many, many thoughts and ideas for how to help this situation. But they all revolve around a distrust of the school system. Once that is resolved, a lot of things will be helped out. How do we get trust back from the community? We all need to be asking "what is the best for the child?". Great feedback from all those who attended.

Next meeting: February 10, 3:15 (goal teams meet at 2:45)

Francelia Burwell will bring refreshments.

Remaining meetings: 2/10, 3/10, 4/21, 5/12

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33.

Goal Team Members:

Positive Culture Goal Team: Audra Simpson, Stacy Palen (Team Recorder), Lance Scott, Terence Scarborough, Kim Broadnax, Monique Hosley-Hyman

Math Goal Team: Glenn Estacio, Aaron Campbell, Francelia Burwell

Literacy Goal Team: Amy Scott, David Stein, Jenn Aguilar, Birshari Cox

Technology Goal Team: Brian Yarborough (Team Recorder), Jenny Umbarger, Lauri Brandenburg