

Whale Branch Middle School

Regarding: Conversations with Amanda Wilson

11-18-2021

Location and Time: Media Center/4:00 PM

After Mrs. Dickson and Mrs. Allen presented the rocks and glows from the instructional review, Ms. Wilson walked over to meet me because I was a new person in the room. After introductions, she informed me of her position as the 5th and 6th grade interventionist as well as the MTSS coordinator. She then proceeded to let me know about the challenges of teacher shortage, and that she just left campus today during school hours to complain about being used as a substitute in several classes. I responded by empathizing with her, but also stating that often we as instructional coaches or RTI/MTSS/Testing coordinators are asked to cover classes because we do have a shortage, and we all must pitch in for the good of the students.

12-03-21 or 12-04-21 (I can't remember which day or time of the day)

Location: D. Ford's PLC room

Ms. Wilson came into the room looking for Dr. Ford to discuss *Dream Box*. I told her that she stepped out, and I will let her know to reach out to her. Eventually, her conversation shifted to the number of teachers that are stressed, tired, and angry with Mrs. Allen, and she is very different from Mr. Lawton. She indicated that the teachers were not receiving communication and were often unclear about expectations or events and very overwhelmed. She then went on to let me know that there were several teachers who would not be returning after the Christmas break. I told her that I was aware of the one teacher, Ms. Hewitt but not the others. I asked if they have already informed Mrs. Allen of their intent to not return. She wouldn't say or indicate the names of those teachers. I stated, "Well, if they are waiting till January that is very unfair to us." I told her that I did not appreciate teachers breaking their contract in the middle of the year because it affects everyone especially the students. I reminded her that this is why support staff, coaches, and coordinators are called to help maybe even teach the class for the rest of the year. She said that teachers are being asked to do too much by this administration. Professionally speaking, I would never share that conversation or the one above with someone that I just met. Her conversation and concerns need to be addressed with the administration because it places a new person in a very precarious position.