

Dr. Ann Meese, Chair
Lauren Knight, Co-chair
Anitra Walker
Cassandra Sanchez
Karin Barbee
Heather Knight
Kelley Morel

Ex-Officio: Danielle Dufauchard

Lycée Français de la Nouvelle-Orléans
Academic Committee Meeting
Minutes
October 5, 2021
5:30 – 7:00
On Zoom

In Attendance: Ann Meese, Karin Barbee, Heather Knight and Kelley Morel

Absent: Anitra Walker, Lauren Knight and Cassandra Sanchez

The minutes for the July 8, 2021 were passed.

Dr. Meese introduced the new director of Exceptional Student Services (ESS), Mario Myles. Across all campuses over 200 students are served. 82 children have Individual Education Plans (IEPs), 29 with speech only, gifted and talented 62 - with evaluations in progress for music, art. Unfortunately when Mr. Myles was hired in mid July there were and still are 2 vacancies in gifted and talented and 2 special education teachers at McNair. He has worked with contacts in the city but teachers with these specialties and contractors are in high demand and extremely difficult to find. Services have started at Johnson and an interim plan has been designed for McNair. The S.E. L.F. an organization of Special Education practitioners, has evaluated the program twice and deficiencies were pointed out. Mr. Miles will be meeting with his team to finalize goals and set actions plans. He will report at the next Academic Committee meeting on October 28.

Committee member, Karin Barbee, asked if support will be given to McNair students for reaching their goals in French including the passing of the Brevet.

Sophie Capmartin, Academic Director, presented the “Academic Newsletter #2” – this can be viewed in total on the Lycée website. She reported first on the Benchmark Assessment Process. She supplied a chart with on Overview of the Benchmark Assessments School Wide. Due to Hurricane Ida and the week of fall break, the process of completing data collection was delayed. The expected date of completion for all grade levels is Friday, October 29. There is a guide for parents to see how Kindergarten, Kindergarten through Grade 3 and grades 3 – 11 are evaluated. These results will be used by the teachers and the members of the Academic team to focus on the areas of need to integrate into instruction. It will also help teachers to analyze the needs of individual students.

Capmartin then gave an overview of the LEAP 2020-2021 (known as LEAP 25) results and an analysis of strengths and areas to improve. The Department of Education summarized the results:

- The number of students scoring Mastery or above showed a 5% decrease statewide.
- Simultaneously, there was an increase in the number scoring Unsatisfactory which disproportionately impacted economically disadvantaged students, students in the earlier tested grades (e.g., grades 3 & 4), and scores earned in mathematics. Charts for the 4 subjects tested compared Lycée students to the state as a whole.
- Lycée scored above the state averages in English Language Arts.
- In math Lycée students scored slightly under the state average in 4th and 6th grades. In Algebra One Lycée students scored 62% in Advanced and mastery compared to 29% statewide.
- In science all grades tested above the state averages in Mastery and Advanced.
- In social studies all grades tested except for the 4th and 6th grades showed a higher percentage than the state average. The sixth grade did not have a dedicated social studies teacher. (This has been rectified for the current school year.) The Biology scores were not given in the report.

Capmartin added that it is important to remember that Lycée is a bilingual school and French teachers instruct in all areas except the English language. Since they come usually for a three year period, their first year is always a high learning curve. There is so much that is different and they have to integrate the Louisiana standards with the French standards. Gina Bianchi, the Johnson School principal, added that it is a delicate balance for French teachers to integrate both standards.

Capmartin also described the new Standard-Based Grading and new Report Cards for grades 1 - 5. Students will be graded according to how well they are meeting educational standards at the end of the trimester. A question was asked about how this will affect students who transfer to other schools. A parent café will be given for parents of first through fifth graders on Thursday, November 4 at 5:00 pm.

Acting CEO Danielle Dufauchard summarized the process of establishing year long academic goals which could be measured after the receipt of the 2021-2022 LEAP tests in mid-July. The teaching team will be looking at mid-year trends compared to the Benchmark Data collected in the fall. They will be working with the staff to assess the success of meeting those instructional goals. Teachers will also evaluate the individual progress of their students. A question from the audience asked how this information will be used to set goals for student I.E.P.'s.

The Academic Newsletter #2 also contained a list of French and American tests given to high schoolers. Information on pathways to be chosen for reaching graduation was also included. In summary all high school students will take the required LA TOPS University Diploma courses. In addition information on the French National Centre for Distance Education (CNED) offerings to Lycée was explained as well as their counting toward attaining the Baccaalaureate degree. A high school pathways café will be offered on Thursday, October 21 at 5:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned.