

## Broad Based Planning Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

The second meeting of the year for the Broad Based Planning Committee was held in the White Oak Professional Development Small Conference Room. Members in Attendance: Amanda Ramirez, Susi Clark, Melissa Dougherty, Amy Maharas, Andrea Brown, Amy Beliles, Mary Burkhart, Kristen Hwang, Lily Hwang, Savannah Hwang, Carrie Alday, Jenny Shayotovich and Barb Marcotte.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Jenny Shayotovich. Jenny shared her news of her recent promotion to Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning. With this, Broad Based Planning Committee will have new leadership in the 2024-25 school year. Congratulations were shared by the members in attendance for Jenny.

The first item on tonight's agenda relates to the update to Strategic Goal Number One, "becoming a professional learning community, improving student achievement by providing equitable experiences and opportunities for all students". Jenny shared the four questions of a PLC. The work that we are doing in PLC's benefits all students, high ability or not. It is also a natural opportunity for our identified students to have all teachers planning for instructional strategies that will push them to their potential.

Regarding the Curriculum and Instruction goal for this group, Jenny is excited about the letters with CogAT and NWEA scores that went out to our third through fifth graders. Let's review the process and next steps for identifying high ability students.

The recommendation process is now open for students in grades three through five. We have received some appeal submissions. With removing the names of the students, we have the data points for you to review later this evening in small groups, to work together to decide whether your group believe the student(s) should be invited to the high ability program, send SIGS evaluations to teacher(s) and parent/guardian for extra data to confirm the placement of students just below the cut off scores, or if the family should receive a denial letter for high ability placement at this time. Jenny shared the denial letter with the group, which recommended a couple of changes. Changes will be made before sending out to families.

Jenny then passed out the Scales for Identifying Gifted Students: SIGS to everyone. Time was given for the members to review the form to be completed by teachers and another by parent/guardian. There are seven categories for the SIGS. We will focus on the areas of the appeal (Language Arts and/or Mathematics) as well as three additional categories for all appeals (General Intellectual Ability, Creativity and Leadership). The SIGS cannot be the sole criteria for high ability placement, as it is not a universal screener. We do need the universal screener scores (NWEA and/or CogAT) to at least be within a margin of error range to utilize the SIGS. Also, because a student has been nominated for an appeal does not mean SIGS will be sent out – this will be used for students who are close to qualifying.

This year we are moving up the appeal window to February, instead of June, with the hope that with school still in session, we can have teacher input while they are still in school. Also, we will be able to utilize Spring NWEA scores as a final determination factor for the students who really need qualifying scores. One positive shared by a middle school teacher is that by sending the SIGS out now, if you only have a student for one period a day, you can consult with their team teachers for their input as well.

The ACSC Recommendation Review Matrix was given to members so while reviewing the spreadsheets, they can use this as a guide for high ability placement. Spreadsheets without student names were then handed out to small groups. Time was given to see if the small groups believed, by the scores listed on these sheets and the comments for placing the appeal, the student be placed in high ability, send SIGS to teacher and parent/guardian for further data, or send a denial letter. The smaller groups shared their findings with everyone. It was an enlightening experience to see the process of high ability selection.

In respect for everyone's time, the meeting concluded at 7:24 p.m. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Small Conference Room at White Oak Professional Development Center.