

Meeting Minutes – WMS School Improvement Team

Location: WMS Library

Date: 11/19/2024

Time: 6:00pm

Attendance

- Desiree Derix (Principal), Megan Herlihy (Assistant Principal), James Stringer (Assistant Principal), Suzanne Machinski, Stephanie Troupe, Faith McDonald, Melissa Evans, Bobby Troupe, Katelynn Gregory
- Facilitator: Desiree Derix
- Co-Facilitator and note taker: James Stringer

Review of Vision Statement

Review Agenda Items

1. Review Primary duties of the Education Accountability Act of 2019
2. Review of WMS priorities
3. Review student outcomes

Discussion Points

1. ELA Outcomes

- a. Improved student writing, reviewed content area use of Text Sets: gathering text sets for all content areas, providing scaffolded material to build student knowledge that will allow them to access high level, content specific areas.

2. Math Outcomes

- a. Building capacity around data collection and CPT
- b. Currently, the Assistant Superintendent is acting as the IC for math with Stephanie Lenihan as the district wide STEM coordinator working heavily with WMS math.
- c. Grade 5 is using Bridges, Grade 8 is using Reveal for Algebra, and all grades are using Agile. School Kit acting as a consultant to improve data digs.
- d. Discussion ensued about Aleks replacing Dreambox. Aleks was utilized at the high school originally, then by 8th grade last year. This year the math team decided to make the full transition to Aleks. It was mentioned that a data review could be conducted to see whether summer school students who used Aleks as a supportive were more successful in their classes this year. Concerns were raised regarding the effectiveness of electronic programs in the past and strategies to ensure Aleks works alongside what teachers are teaching in classrooms. It was also noted that grading must be done with consistency across all teams regarding Aleks.

3. Culture

- a. Many initiatives are in place this year surrounding building more positive connections in classrooms, lunch rooms, buses, etc. It was acknowledged that this year feels much different than last from a student standpoint.
- b. WMS has revised their handbooks, enforced attendance, and put new procedures in place for morning routines, including requiring a parent to sign in a tardy student.
- c. Attendance efforts have resulted in a 43% decrease in tardiness for September, 33% decrease in October 33%, and 15% less days out than last year. Efforts being made to improve attendance include, but are not limited to: meeting regularly, mailers, phone calls, home visits, full community email blasts, and celebration certificates for perfect attendance. Administration is more aligned and consistent with attendance expectations.

4. School Climate

- a. Concerns were raised regarding class size and relationship building, specifically surrounding the 6th grade. One fear is that large class sizes inhibits relationships between students and teachers that are necessary for learning, which is unfair.
- b. It was proposed that a change is made in scheduling to shrink class sizes down significantly from the higher 20's, as it is not possible to manage that many student's at once. WMS needs to follow suit with the elementary schools and advocate for more teachers to reduce the load.
- c. Care and concern was displayed on behalf of the students, stating that many issues escalate more than they should because it is not possible to intervene due to the limited time and workload these large classes are causing for our teachers.
- d. Social and emotional learning was also discussed as an area of importance. Teaching the student to be kind to each other, especially on the bus. It was proposed that a meeting is established with transportation to encourage consistency on the buses, as well as in hallways, cafeterias, etc.

Action/Future Agenda Items

Other Notes