

Meeting Minutes – WMS School Improvement Team

Location: WMS Library

Date: 12/10/2024

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: Suzanne Machinski

Review of Vision Statement

Review Agenda Items

1. Review of Norms
2. Review of WMS priorities
3. Good for the Order (anything that is on attendees' minds to be discussed).

Discussion Points

1. Peer Tutoring

- a. 120 students are out for tutoring, 31 are out for tutors.
- b. Brief details on the program were discussed.

2. ALEKS & ATLAS Protocol

- a. Discussion ensued on ALEKS assignments, particularly around the Thanksgiving holiday recess. Concerns were raised about the inconsistency of assignments, as some students had a larger workload than others, some who had none at all.
- b. Another concern was raised based on a teacher stating "I can't help you, get it wrong for easier questions."
- c. Adjusted Atlas protocol
 - Review of protocol
 - 10 minutes - review the data
 - 10 min - describe & interpret the data
 - 10 min - implications
 - Reflection on data

3. School Climate

- a. Statistics surrounding school climate were shared including: Family motivational classroom at 36%, positive energy is 56%, staff supporting initiatives are at 8%, and positive attitude is at 12%. It was included that student and family results increased while staff results all decreased.
- b. Student enthusiasm towards being in school is 34%, and teacher respect for children is at 69%, which is lower than almost all comparisons.
- c. Discussion continued about morale and school culture, highlighting that many teachers are veteran teachers, with 82% being here 16 years or more. Student behavior at school has improved since last year, which teachers think is partly attributed to the 8th graders moving leaving in combination with structure and consistency provided this year. Expectations will be reiterated in January.
- d. Extracurricular activities seem to be critical for student morale-the Halloween dance proved to be a great example of that. Questions were raised regarding funding for clubs and after school activities, since the COVID money has run out. It seems there is general interest for clubs among teachers and students and a greater push for marketing them will come in the spring. WMS currently has SMILE, Earth Optimist, Chorus and Band.
- e. Some ideas for future clubs, extracurricular efforts include educating parents on opportunities and assistance available to them, Y Cares, incorporating WMS clubs into Senior Projects, and Westerly Land Trust Programs. Suzanne mentioned a parent child book club that could bring families, reading, and the school together.
- f. Discussion regarding tying extracurricular activities to grades revealed that it may be best to avoid that, as the goal is to target the students who are not engaged. As of 12/8, we had improved 15% for attendance and were around 30-40% improved on tardies.

Action/Future Agenda Items

1. More opportunities for students
2. Potential Tech Safety Presentation
3. No phones in certain circumstances, Yondr pouches.

Other Notes