

Meeting Minutes – WMS School Improvement Team

Location: WMS Library

Date: 1/14/25

Time: 6:00pm

Attendance

Desiree Derix (Principal), Megan Herlihy (Assistant Principal), James Stringer (Assistant Principal), Stephanie Troupe, Shaina McGinity, Suzanne Machinski, Bobby Troupe, Faith McDonald, Melissa Evans, Katelynn Gregory, Angela Goethals

Review of WMS Vision Statement

Review Agenda Items

1. **Review of Norms and Vision Statement / Desiree Derix**
2. **Updates on Peer Tutoring** – now open to all students, we are seeing a lot of success / James Stringer
3. **New Passwords for Power School due to breach / Desiree Derix**
 - a. Was any data for special ed students compromised? – we only have the information on what the breach entailed from the emails – we do know that no social security numbers were taken
4. **Q2 Closing**- ends on January 31st / Desiree Derix
5. **AimsWeb Testing** - occurring right now, will be completed by next week / Desiree Derix
 - a. What is the difference between RICAS and AimsWeb – AimsWeb is a benchmark test that we do 3 times a year to help us understand where are students are, and if more supports may be needed – RICAS is a state assessment given once a year to understand the overall performance/content understanding of students.
6. **WHS Showcase** – January 31st – this is a time for the High School to present the different CTE programs to the 8th grade students, as well as a chance to help the 8th grade students gain a better understanding of what HS will be like. / Desiree Derix
7. **WHS Open House** on Feb 6th from 5-7pm, this is open to all families to help them understand the transition to High School / Desiree Derix

8. Library – The Westerly Public Library has a range of activities for students- we are always looking for activities for the middle school students and families to be aware of, we will include some of the library's offerings in a future email to all families. / Suzanne Machinski

9. Star Rating / Desiree Derix

- a. Walk through of how to access the RIDE Report Card in order to access the Star rating and accountability factors. Data is formed from 2 years (i.e. 22-23 and 23-24, when the 24-25 data is added 22-23 will drop)
- b. Explanation of Star Rating Rubric
- c. Review of WMS Accountability Overview – followed by a deeper view of the overview
- d. ELA Achievement – includes RICAS and DLM (Alternative Assessment) – including detailed breakdown of exact point earnings. – the All Block for ELA is key, this is the first year I am running All Block with fidelity in elementary school and I am seeing huge gains.
 - i. We can't continue to steal from Paul to pay Mary – taking time from Social Studies to provide for ELA
 - ii. If we can't run All Block now for ELA, and actually run the curriculum with fidelity then we need to look at making changes in order to allow for this to happen. Can we manage our specials differently in order to allow for more time in ELA content?
- e. Math Achievement – Bridges grade 5, Agile 6-8, Reveal for advanced 8th grade (this is what they use in the High School)
- f. Science Achievement
- g. ELA Growth – we are at 1.05 earning 2 points, 1.1 required to earn 3 points
- h. Math Growth – we are at .96 earning 2 points, 1.1 required to earn 3 points
- i. English Language Proficiency – we rose from a 2 star to a 3 star school in this category. This is a combination of student improvements and a change in the way the score is calculated.
- j. Preview of Baseball Card Report in PowerSchool Performance Matters – this allows you to view all data related to a student in relation to each other on a single screen.
- k. Student/Teacher Chronic Absenteeism and suspensions – 3 points for student, 2 points for teacher and 2 points for suspensions.

- I. Exceeds – 6% exceed in ELA (2 points), 1.9% exceed for Math (1point) – 2% growth needed for 2 points.

10. March School Improvement Team Meeting- we will be reviewing a draft Retention Policy for the Middle School / Desiree Derix

- a. Will we get it ahead of time to review prior to the meeting? – At this point we do not know.

Discussion Points

1. I wonder if there is a way to incentivize, or get students to care more about the standardized testing.
2. Currently ELA in 5th grade borrows time from Social Studies, but is still not able to implement the curriculum with fidelity within the given schedule. “All Block”, which is a skills practice portion of the curriculum, is typically the part that gets cut. According to some of the elementary teachers, running All Block has been key to success in student gains in the classroom. What can we do differently to help support the full time needed in order for the students to be able to access the curriculum as designed?
3. Are there any data points that links the groups, the cusp kids, how many and how they might? – RIDE does not track that, but the teachers can go into their portal and see their students to see how close they are. Teachers can see prior and current year, it is amazing how many kids are 1 point away from being proficient.
3. When was the last time the MS was a 3 Star school? Last year we were a 2 Star, the year before we were a 3 Star.
4. The benefit of decreasing chronic absenteeism extends across all categories.
5. Do you look at your RICAS and compare to your AimsWeb and see how consistent their scoring is? This is something we have talked about, however, it is not comparing apples to apples. This is a question that we do have, in addition to overall grades and performance on standardized testing.
6. We are hoping that ALEKS is going to give us a little bit of an edge. I wonder if we are enforcing bad habits with ALEKS- if the majority of students are not using paper and pencil to show any work, so they are doing everything in their head. I wonder if there is a way to incorporate a hard copy, i.e. students need to show their work, in order to earn the credit for ALEKS.

Having consistent expectations across the school is key, having an accountability aspect is important for students.

Action Items

1. Item Description / Responsible / Due Date
 - a. N/A

Other Notes