

# SAC Meeting 12/20/24 (Holmes)

The meeting discussed the transition of the Gifted Magnet Program (GMP) to Holmes, highlighting positive feedback and ongoing training for new teachers. Interdisciplinary projects, such as a seventh-grade Egypt unit, were successful, with experiential learning trips enhancing engagement. Enrollment is increasing, with 80 students currently, projected to reach 100 next year. Challenges include hiring and retaining qualified teachers. Future agenda items include site-based budgets and enrollment projections, with a focus on addressing these challenges comprehensively.

## **GMP Program Transition**

- Discussion of the transition of the GMP program to Holmes and the positive feedback received from the district.
- Highlights shared of the ongoing learning required for teachers to effectively handle gifted instruction.
- Discussion of challenges of hiring highly qualified teachers for the GMP program.
- The team has been investing in additional training, including attending a gifted conference in Denver.
- Discussion of successful planning for interdisciplinary projects over four days during the summer. Examples of projects include seventh graders studying Egypt and creating persona poems from the perspective of Egyptian artifacts.
- Highlights shared of benefits of experiential learning trips, such as visits to New York State Park, the North Pole, and various plays.
- Collaboration between GMP and non-GMP teachers and students has been smooth, with joint activities and celebrations.

## **Mid-year Data Review**

- Introduction of the Panorama survey, which measures student and teacher perceptions of culture and climate.
- The team discusses the importance of student engagement and the positive trends in areas like self-management and focus. Emphasizes the need for affirmative responses in surveys to get actionable results.
- Presentation of the Star benchmark results, showing a positive trend in reading but a flat trend in math.
- The team discusses the need to close the gap between exit tickets and end-of-module assessments in math.
- Discussion of teaching students' strategies to perform well on standardized assessments, similar to writing test strategies.
- The team plans to make adjustments to the math major improvement strategy to address the stagnation in growth scores.
- Discussion on how parents access academic reports and the misconception that A grades indicate all is well. There are challenges with receiving Star test results via email and accessing Power School.

- Suggestion for direct, aggressive communication methods, such as text messages, to provide parents with necessary information.
- Suggestion that proposes targeted, tiered communication based on attendance levels to ensure parents are informed without being overwhelmed.
- Suggestion that district should announce changes in reporting methods to parents to improve understanding and engagement.

#### **Teacher Communication and Newsletters**

- Suggestion of teacher team communication into teacher newsletters to keep parents informed, and importance of grade-level newsletters for parent engagement.
- Suggestion that the frequency of teacher newsletters, suggesting they start early in the school year.
- Suggestion that teaching teams introduce themselves and provide access information to parents a few weeks into the school year.

#### **Future Agenda, Site-Based Budget Discussion**

- Outline shared for agenda for the next meeting, focusing on site-based budgets and enrollment projections.

#### **Action Items**

- Explore options for accommodating the growing GMP enrollment, such as having teachers teach an additional class or hiring more teachers
- Continue to invest in professional development for GMP teachers, including sending them to the gifted conference
- Discuss hiring challenges and site-based budget allocation at the next meeting

**People in attendance:** Kayleigh Glaspie-Biondo, Denise LaPlante, Sean Minikin, Tara Falslev, Abranda Phillips, Lauren Blazis Walker, Tony Karr