

SBLT Meeting Minutes: January 16th, 2024

Members present: Nicole Weeks, Dr. McMillon, Alex Swerbinsky, Renee Bomar, Amy Schoppa, Jennifer Albano-Miller, Kelly McClure, Lori Vernon, David Hammack, Barbara Hultberg, Katie Hazelwood, Andrea Matkins, Parent Rep: Kate Cruz

Welcome/Meeting Called to Order

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve: Andrea Matkins; Seconded by Kelly McClure

The team voted to approve minutes from the previous meeting.

Celebrations and Successes:

- Three students will be going to the district science fair on 1/17.
- 5th Grade PLC shout out: Great work by the math team discussing “Meeting Component Purposes”.

New Business:

MTAC:

This serves as our mid-year meeting for this committee. Mrs. Probst would like to know if there are any needs by grade level or department. Please communicate your needs with her as soon as you can.

Update on library space: 25 students completed the Winter Reading Challenge during this last break; our EBOB team will be competing on Feb. 15th. If they win, they travel to UNCG in March; Fifth grade helpers will be rotating out for a new semester of helpers; feedback was shared regarding how the high school reading buddies are going; Book Fair is scheduled for March 11 -15. The preview will take place on March 8th.

Interim Report Feedback:

Grade levels shared feedback with the draft. Most grade levels were good with the changes. Kindergarten made some requests for changes that will be considered by Mrs. Weeks before the new interim is adopted.

Graduate of Northern: What does a Northern Elementary Graduate look like?

We need to work to narrow down all the character traits that have been brainstormed previously in team meetings to about 10 different character traits. Among the most important traits named today are:

Confident

Kind/Compassionate

Team Player/Collaborative

Integrity

Leadership Skills

Perseverance

Academically prepared

Embraces Diversity

Responsible

Advocate

Empathetic

Curiosity

Organized/Good at Time Management

Mrs. Vernon will compile a final list to be given to Mrs. Weeks.

Indistar Action Steps: Review and Update

By June 30, 2024, Northern Elementary will increase overall 3rd grade reading EOG proficiency by at least 3 percentage points, from 74% in 2022-23 to 77% in 2023-24.

By June 30, 2024, Northern Elementary will increase its overall Performance Composite by at least 3 percentage points, from 77.5% in 2022-23 to 80.5% in 2023-24.

By June 30, 2024, Northern Elementary will decrease chronic student absences (10% or more of days enrolled) by 5 percentage points, from 11.7% in 2022-23 to 6.7% in 2023-24.

By June 30, 2024, Northern Elementary will reduce the number of lost instructional days resulting from discipline referrals by 10% from 9.91 number in 2022-23 to 8.9 number in 2023-24.

By June 30, 2024, Northern Elementary will utilize assessment data (Dibels for K-2 and CFA data for 3-5) in all classrooms to guide small group and tiered interventions.

Indicators to be looked at and discussed this week:

Some action items have already been completed and marked as such:

- Teachers use lesson plans to reteach expectations after winter break.

- AG teachers hosted CogAT information sessions for 2nd grade parents.

Upcoming items to look at today:

- Retrain staff on Educators Handbook with expectation that teachers enter incidents: The team feels we are good with this area and can mark it complete.
- Create a process for 2-way communication for teachers and support staff: How is this going? Mrs. Hazelwood shared there has been improvement in the area but still room for growth; Mrs. Weeks suggests we should always share at drop off how many students are there today, if anyone is leaving early, and any issues that may be going on that day.
- Create plan for teachers to refer students who need extra emotional support: Update: the first set of students have been selected which included 14 kids. Teachers with selected students will have some additional information to fill out to support the initial referral. We will now get parent permission to begin two groups; a 2nd grade group with Mrs. Miller and 3-5th grade with Dr. McMillon. This step has been marked complete.

Book Club: Grading For Equity: Chapters 7 and 8: Looking at Practices that are Mathematically Accurate

Discussion of key points in these two chapters – highlights from the team include:

- How the “zero” impacts grades and is so difficult to recover from.
- Is a zero an accurate representation of content learned? Most students at least know something about a topic.
- Incompletes vs. zeros
- Zeros as placeholders in gradebooks sometimes grab the attention of parents.
- The effects of a zero may look different depending on school demographics.
- We are, in effect, held hostage with our report cards in the upper grades.
- Students are being scored at their instructional level, which does negate this problem with the 100-point scale in some instances.
- We don’t have universal grading practices at Northern....so what next? Some grade levels do have minimum grades that are given, others do not.
- High stakes testing is our reality and report cards should also be indicative of how students are really doing.
- What is the Northern way going to be and how are we going to communicate that?
- Group project thoughts – when group projects are administered you should still be able to gauge the amount of content learned by each group member individually.
- Weighing the most recent performance and making sure we are reflecting a growth mindset is sound practice.
- Having a “floor” in grades 3-5 makes sense but we don’t want to lose our ability to hold students accountable.

Team members should come to the next meeting having read chapters 9 and 10.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn by Alex Swerbinsky and seconded by David Hammack