

Alignment Jackson Elementary Team Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2016, 8:30-10 AM
JPS Superintendent's Conference Room

Members present: Dr. Michelle King, Thea Faulkner, Jeanette Whisenton

I. Welcome and Introductions (Dr. King)

II. Review of Principle

Principle #4. The team/committee process is collaborative. This is a joint effort. We need to ensure the success of scholars in the area of literacy.

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved.

IV. Literacy Activities Update (Dr. King)

Teen Trendsetters™ - Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy selected Jackson Public Schools to participate in its Teen Trendsetters™ program. Teen Trendsetters™ is an effort where high school and middle school students tutor elementary scholars on reading and literacy activities that they do as a pair. We have ten Teen Trendsetter programs in the district. All 7 high schools and 3 middle schools are paired with elementary schools. The high school and middle school scholars go to the elementary schools at a designated time. They convene in a pre-selected room and work one-on-one with elementary scholars in 1st-3rd grade on reading.

TutorMate – This program involves volunteers from various corporate organizations where they remotely work with scholars using the Internet in a prescribed program. They are tutoring and supporting literacy through a computer-based program through which the TutorMate volunteer remains in their office space and logs into a program and the scholar on the classroom end logs in as well. It's live interaction over the computer (not in person). We are implementing this program with 1st graders at five elementary schools in the Provine feeder pattern.

Reading Mates – This year, we're implementing this initiative in eight elementary schools with approximately 10-20 scholars at each site. Reading Mates volunteers tutor our 3rd grade scholars based on their instructional plan, using resources that the school's contact person has given them. We use the STAR Assessment data to determine which scholars are part of the program, and we monitor the impact on each scholar. This is a one-to-one approach, in which Reading Mates volunteers go to the school and work with scholars in person to help enhance their reading skills.

- **Reading Mates vs. Book Buddies**

For the purpose of the Alignment Jackson Elementary Committee, we do not engage with Book Buddies or track data through our committee process. There are Book Buddies still in the schools, and we have support through Partners in Education for these. They read for pleasure, and some may use strategies to tutor and enhance their skills. I want to be clear- we still have Book Buddies in our schools, and it's a staple program in our district,

but that's not an Alignment Jackson Elementary Committee initiative. Book Buddies works with K-5th grade students. Reading Mates is targeted to 3rd grade students only.

- **Barbara Bush Teen Trendsetters (Thea Faulkner)**

- 347 total participants (elementary, middle, & high)
- Changed program advisors at Lanier, Made some changes at Forest Hill.
- All programs are now functioning
- STAR data will be used for growth, and there are other factors outside of numbers. This is a program that everyone looks forward to.
- Advisors are doing a good job communicating with each other, rearranging schedules, being flexible
- See article about Cardozo Middle and Bates Elementary

Dr. King: Are there plans in the works for an end-of-the year celebration?

Thea: Last year, the program advisors did that themselves. It would be nice to do something deliberate, but I haven't heard. I will check with Tracy.

Dr. King: I was thinking about the middle and high school awards programs. They should be acknowledged for being a Teen Trendsetter and receive some kind of certificate. We have to celebrate the work.

Thea: There's a district-wide adopter who may be interested in supporting this.

Dr. King: A group picture is another nice way to acknowledge the group. At the least, we should have a certificate forwarded to the schools. We can get permission for logos, etc. and have it nicely printed up with the seal for Barbara Bush Teen Trendsetter mentors.

Thea: I wonder if we could have a page added to the website for Teen Trendsetters and TutorMate.

Liz: At the last meeting, someone raised the question about measuring outcomes for the middle/high schoolers involved in this process. Are we doing this already? Social-emotional outcomes, perhaps?

Dr. King: We could give a quick survey to the middle/high school mentors. We could frame the questions for social-emotional data. The mentor and mentee could both fill that out.

*Thea will check with Tracy, who may have done this before, and Ms. Evans, who is interested in this data at the middle school level.

- **TutorMate (Thea Faulkner)**

- See UMMC article about TutorMate
- Tammy holds a new position at UMMC dedicated to community engagement and service learning. She pulled all of the entities together and got us 60 tutors from UMMC. She has been wonderful to work with, and she got this up and running in less than two weeks!!
- If you haven't seen TutorMate in action, it's magical.
- The program is running in 4 elementary schools; French will launch next week.
- STAR data will also be used.

Dr. King: This is worthy of celebration! We should try to get this news story on our website.

V. Summer Reading (Jeanette Whisenton)

- This is a new five-year initiative. We're changing titles, so we'll have 13 new titles for K-12. We have a committee that created a list of books and decided on these particular titles.
- We have selected the traditional education titles, but we are still waiting on the advanced academics books. Dr. Seuss will pull titles out of a hat to make the final decisions.
- We're currently working on a Summer Reading logo and will be making the final changes this week.
- We need to decide whether we want to continue with the same structure as the past for Parent Orientation and Providers Training
- Regarding the location for Parent Orientation- Alignment Jackson involved or separate boot camps?

Dr. King: My opinion is that it falls in the Family Engagement Team. It involves Pre-K through high school aged students. The Alignment Jackson Elementary Team can still support through providing trainers.

We want MPB to continue offering the Providers Training, and we may need to up the ante with the new books. We may need more than one opportunity in order to reach more people. Could they do at least a second time?

I remember from the bootcamp last year that summer is a tough time. It can be hard to get school staff to participate. If we plan soon, we may be able to get more teachers involved.

* Ms. Whisenton will have calendar and updates about summer reading and the possibility of an additional provider's training.

VI. Celebrations

- There has been a lot of positive feedback about our literacy initiatives.
- Already showing positive data points from winter testing to now. We won't know until April about Summative Assessment data.
- MS Association for Partners in Education- Books in Barber Shops won the Governor's award for outstanding partnerships!

We did not get around to discussing the "Double Jeopardy" article. Liz will send this out as homework, and we can discuss this at our next committee meeting.

Our next meeting is March 24th, 2016 at 8:30 AM.