

Alignment Jackson Elementary School Team Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2016, 8:30 AM
JPS Superintendent's Conference Room

Members present: Parthenia Fields, Amber May, Jeanette Whisenton, Deyanna Jenkins, Kimberly Smith, Kesia Horton, Shauna Johnson, Thea Faulkner

1. Welcome & Introductions (Amber)

2. Principle of Committee Work (Anthony)

Principle #6- "Teams/Committees do not determine WHAT to accomplish; instead, committees determine HOW to accomplish what JPS has determined through its strategic planning process."

- This can get lost in the shuffle. We need to align to WIG. It all relates back to student achievement.

3. Approval of Minutes (Amber)

Moved to approve by Parthenia. Seconded by Kesia. Minutes approved.

4. Literacy Activities Update (Anthony)

- Barbara Bush/Teen Trendsetters
 - serving at least 300 students; 15 elementary school students working with middle or high school mentors at 10 different sites; elementary mentees improve their literacy skills and get a free set of books to keep
 - At the recent press conference, the narrative was a little off; they focused on Spann and Jackson Academy and didn't communicate that it is a district-wide initiative.
 - Could we pull data piece to see the 3rd grade scholars' progress? We can measure progress with STAR scores for this (just like we do with Reading Mates). Some students started in October, so we have plenty of data for this.
 - There was an issue with software- coordinators couldn't log in and had to reset their accounts; Now that transportation and technology logistics are in place, everything is going smoothly.
 - Is there a way for us to measure progress with our teens/mentor, too?
 - Yes, there are social-emotional indicators.
 - A couple of schools are planning a mentor/mentee basketball game. Trying to build relationships in addition to academic progress. We should figure out how to support something like this at all of the schools.
 - *Request for Thea: For Teen Trendsetters can you share a list of participant numbers? Also, can you get more information about "mentor data" for middle and high school students?*
- TutorMate- see memorandum handout from Thea
 - Tutormate has launched! Success is that people are registering. Issue has been technology and things we didn't plan on. Lake will roll out on Tuesday. We still need 20 tutors, but these spots should be filled soon.
 - Individuals are not the best for TutorMate- the set-up and reporting is aimed at businesses/orgs/corporations (groups of 10 people at a time). Thea has encouraged individuals to get involved through Reading Mates instead.
 - We could tie TutorMate to an ITP retroactively to get participant data.
- Reading Mates- see updated volunteer spreadsheet
 - 150ish students were served last year.
 - People have been calling and are interested. *Dr. King will crosscheck and verify that all slots are filled.*

- Springboard can help fill openings at Dawson, as well.
- Baker was ready to go and we had our instructional assistants prepared as Reading Mates, just in case. Now we're making a plan for the new volunteers coming in. What they're doing with the students won't be as strategic as the Instructional Assistants, but they will still be helping support MCASS tests. They might be able to do fluency activities, for example. We're very excited!
- Those strategies and approaches need to be lifted up, so that other schools have ideas for utilizing volunteers efficiently and not turning extras away.
- Communication and Coordination between the three literacy initiatives
 - There has been some confusion with messaging and cases where the initiatives sounded like competing programs. We need to do a better job at marketing the three initiatives as coming from the same place (Alignment Jackson Elementary Team) and as working in tandem with one another.
- Summer Reading and Involvement
 - Last year, Alignment Jackson played a role. Do we want Bootcamps again this year? – Other partners are Parents for Public Schools (Parent Orientation) and Mississippi Public Broadcasting (Provider Training). Parent Orientation focuses on engaging families in summer reading. Provider Training focuses on childcare providers.
 - Yes. We should support bootcamps again.
 - MPB's training for providers is planned for April 20th(?) after the press conference.
 - PPS Parent Orientation- when is this scheduled? Could the 1st session be the Bootcamp?
 - Last year, bootcamp fell on the same day as a big event (Summer Learning Date with MPB, Parents & Magazine) in July. Resulted in low participation. Could we partner with that event this year?
 - Can we take the bootcamps to other fun social events (Black rodeo, JSU giving free tickets, etc.) that happen in the summer?
 - This would help us with publicity, too, which was an issue last year. Flyers, robocalls, etc. still didn't reach people.
 - Location? Parent Orientation was at MetroCenter a couple of years ago. Central location like this works best.
 - We need books. 1500 books per grade level (about 4500 books total). Could there be an ITP for this?
 - What if we did another provider training so we could reach even more providers?
 - How can we enhance and support the existing Provider Training?
 - We could get some teachers from the bootcamps to lead hands-on activities, etc.
 - Could the Parent & Provider trainings be blended together? It might be beneficial for different perspectives to be in the same room / hear the same thing at the same time. Fragmentation and quality are common issues.
 - What if we combine the trainings and do 2 or 3 of them (different dates and locations)- Metrocenter, MPB, and one other place- spread throughout the city. MS Children's Museum? College campus?
 - Could we involve children in the room? Parents could learning about activities and then try them out with their kids. The childcare providers could assist and help parents with language and be positive examples.
 - Next summer reading meeting is Feb 15th. *Ms. Whisenton will forward some names to Liz, and she can send out an alert about this.*
 - We should keep the Operating Board in the loop so that all of the Alignment teams can be involved.

5. Celebrations/Closing