

Alignment Middle School Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 27, 2014 11:00 am-12:30 pm
Location: United Way Conference Room
Facilitator: Shawna Davie United Way
Recorder: LaKisha Boykin, Alignment Jackson

Members Present

Ison Harris	Thea Faulkner
Malkie Schwartz	Brandie Finley
Vonda Beaty	Toni Kersh
Chinelo Evans	Kamper Floyd
David Herndon	M.Fran Bridges

Members Absent

Tonya Murphy	Gary Anderson
Chelsey Hedglin	Amy Burks Berry
Penny King	Derrick Trimble
Jeff Lewis	Peggy Moore
Kimberly Clark	Samuel Clark
Shanina Carmichael	

Middle School committee meeting **commenced** at 11 am

For familiarity purposes each person introduced themselves by giving their name, title, and place of employment.

Opening remarks: by Kamper Floyd.

Review of minutes from previous meeting held February 27, 2014. Motion for minutes approved after a motion by Chinelo Evans and second by M.Fran Bridges.

Middle School Focus on Literacy

Vonda: Once we get the ball rolling we want to see everyone in our community focused on literacy. This will move us into the next school year. The Middle School focus will be on bridging this huge gap. We have discussed the new math curriculum that the state has implemented. Pre-Algebra will now be offered in the 7th grade, Algebra in the 8th grade, and Geometry in the 9th grade. The state is moving the curriculum so we have a total one year gap and some cases it will be a two year gap. We are hoping to have four Thursday evening meetings which will mirror the Alignment Jackson meetings. They will take place in four zones as a parent information session. I really want the Alignment committee to help with this process as we are working toward academic excellence. We have to introduce common core and it's a new face depending on instructional delivery. We are asking the parents and the community to come together and work on the Algebra I curriculum. We are asking for help with problem solving, critical thinking, complex questions, and complex answers.

Question: What will the meeting look like?

Response: The content of the sessions will be informative, positive, motivating, and will allow parents and community partners to speak. A power point presentation will be shared to answer questions that many parents may have about Common Core. Common Core lends itself to 90% feedback so everyone has to learn to work together and get along.

What is Common Core?

The State led effort to develop Common Core began in 2009 by governors and state leaders, it's not a curriculum based program. One common misconception is that common core dictates how the teachers teach; the hope is to have students to acquire thinking skills and to graduate.

States that have implemented Common Core have already shown improvement.

Demonstrating Common Core might be interesting for some parents to learn about; some of the standards and how they are described. Perhaps some of us could facilitate the conversation about the standards of Common Core.

We want parents to be aware that we are not isolating their children or picking on your kids but we are going to have to have truly proficient students.

We don't want to set children up for failure but we want to make the transition to success is as seamless as possible.

What are some outputs that we can do as a group to help with that goal?

If you are representing an organization you can implement tutoring sessions and help with comprehension and algebra tutoring. You can also come to Zone Meetings and give your support and encourage others to attend meetings.

Discussion of the Power Point presentation

All efforts will be guided by the Vision statement and the Tactical Plan

How do we design and implement an Invitation to Participate (ITP)

How do we get the community invested in what we are doing?

Outputs/ Outcome Definitions

Discussion of outputs and outcomes

The outcome hoped for is that it's implemented in the classroom. To get the outcome that you want may be difficult. In the schools you are dealing with people and we are going may be judged on the outcome. The outcome will be determined between the teacher and the student.

Which type of data do you want to collect?

When you look at graduation rate look like?

What type of student is in your specific classroom?

We will focus on reading because reading is in everything. Our goal is to raise the reading level. If we are going to look at an outcome we should start looking at reading.

For the purpose of outcomes/output; there should be checkpoints and benchmarks to your progress.

What's the strategy that your committee wants to take?

What do you want to focus on? Reading or Algebra?

Strategy: Provide literacy resource supports, interventions, and publicity that help to improve grade level reading

Services Needed

1. Team building
2. Algebra tutorials
3. Reading tutorials
4. Problem solving
5. Complex questions
6. Critical Thinking
7. Character Development

Strategy

Rising 6th graders

Summer Literacy Supports

Tactics

School Year Supports for Literacy

Outputs

Publicity of Sample Test Items

Increased Attendance

Number of books read (Self-assessment)

Number of summer reading books read by 6th graders

Short-term Outcomes

Increase grade level in 6th grade reading

Increased interest and confidence in reading

Mid-term outcome

Increase in reading level of 6th graders

Mid-term outcome measurements

Universal screening (Every child takes a universal screener up until 10th grade)

MCT/PARCC

Long term measurement

Increase high school graduation rates

Long term outcome measurement

MDE

Short term outcome

Increase 6th graders reading

Another short- term outcome

Other news

On Saturday some participating McDonalds will help the middle school students raise money for summer reading books. The middle school students have three books they are required to read over the summer. A group came wanting help to give a donation and asked if they could help purchase summer school reading material. On this Saturday they will have a campaign to raise \$40,000. The group has already raised \$5,000.

The Tactical Plan is completed and Kamper Floyd will present it to the Operating Board on Friday, March 28, 2014.

During the next meeting we will work on our Invitation to Participate (ITP). The next meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2014.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:35pm