

**Cotswold School
School Leadership Team
February 25, 2014**

SLT Members attending

Erin Ashendorf
Mary Barlow
Katie Benston
Alison Busch
Katie Catron
Stacie Fulton
Joe Knaack
Jason Oliver
Ashley Sellner

Staff attending

LaShyondha Berry
Carol Harding
Alicia Hash
Carla Houghton
Barbara Helm
Ragin Kenny
Sylvia Moras
Marsha Mullins
Deanna Simpson
Nicole Sparrow
Jessica Steed
Jill Stephens

Chair Jason Oliver welcomed everyone at 6:08pm.

Principal's Update

Ms. Hash shared that the School Board will decide about snow make up days at tonight's School Board meeting.

Read to Achieve is a new state law that says that children who do not pass EOG in third grade will be retained. After results, almost 50% of students in the state would be retained. After two EOGs, parents can request a third assessment. Students could also attend summer reading camp. Cotswold is a host site for one of the camps, administered by CMS. If students do not pass a post-camp EOG, there are additional interventions such as promotion to a transitional 3/4th grade class and additional opportunities to retake the EOG. If the student does not pass the 4th grade EOG at year-end, the school determines whether to retain that student in the 4th grade. The state also provided alternative assessments through a portfolio review process, BOG and MAP assessments. Third grade parents have been invited to meetings about this and will receive a letter next week. Third grade parents curious about their child's progress should contact their child's teacher.

At Cotswold, we have created an after school enrichment program for 25 3rd graders who are at-risk for not performing as well as the school would like on the EOGs. They call this Cougar Camp. Initiatives such as this are added to the School Improvement Plan which is reviewed by SLT.

Katie Catron said that she has talked with Ms. Bowers about a family buddy program. Ms. Bowers' thoughts were that with a female mentor program beginning, these relationships might occur organically. This is something to consider for next year.

Alison Busch shared that the mentoring program is growing. New mentors will be trained next week and we will soon have 30 pairs. The 4/5th grade mentees have been paired with a K/1 mentee, which they love. Also, 4/5th grade mentees will visit Johnson C. Smith for a college visit. Cotswold has also been selected as a CMS pilot site for Be There Dad, a program to increase fatherhood involvement in schools.

Parents received an Education First NC School Report Card in the mail. Ms. Hash noted that the class size is incorrect. It is based on a state formula and does not reflect actual class size at Cotswold.

Katie Benston shared that three staff members, Ms. Bowers, Ms. King, and Ms. McWhirter, attended a Crisis Assistance Ministry Poverty Simulation at Care Ring. Ms. Hash said they are hoping to offer it to all staff. In addition, a group of teachers is going to hear Ron Clark next week. He is an educator from NC who specializes in teaching teachers to teach low-income students.

School Safety & Security

The Lobby Guard system is working well. Security cameras will be installed May 14 and the front door buzzer will be installed by April 30.

There continue to be concerns about parents using alternatives to carpool such as streets in the neighborhood. Teachers and parents report that the carpool line is fine; how do we convince parents to use the carpool line instead of alternative pick up locations? The school will continue to monitor safety and consider closing the back entry off Linda Lane. The school will also send a letter home reminding parents to put safety first.

Teacher Updates

Teachers provided updates regarding curriculum and field trips. Book Fair begins next week.

Ms. Hooks accepted a position in Concord. Ms. Haughton and Ms. Moras will facilitate IB for the remainder of the year. Next year Ms. Moras will be the Cotswold IB Coordinator. Ms. Hash will be hiring a TD teacher.

Governance

Four SLT members will be rolling off this year. Jason will submit an item regarding recruitment and selection to Cougar Bites. In addition, we will hold elections for SLT Executive Committee including Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary in April. Please speak with Jason Oliver, David Thorne, or Katie Benston if you would like more information.

Jason adjourned the meeting at 7:21pm.