

Alexander Graham Middle School
School Leadership Team Minutes

October 22, 2018

Mr. Folk welcomed Brian Benton, a new parent representative, to the School Leadership Team. He reviewed the data from 2017-2018. He pointed out the state of North Carolina to take the end of grade tests in Math and Reading. The level of proficiency is set by the state. The state had us to look at the growth of the students and grading it. The grade is primarily based on 80% proficiency and 20% growth. Historically, we have exceed our growth and our achievement level still hovered about the same. Overall, this gave us a grade of C, based on the weighting of the growth. He differentiated between the various subgroups and pointed out the different perspectives addressed by the statistics. Mr. Folk discussed reading strategies and their implementation as they correlated to the EOG testing format in preparation for the final event. College and career readiness, a district priority, will be supported with this.

The overview of the school improvement plan was next on the agenda. Our school goal is to use research based strategies for literacy to close the college readiness achievement gap in reading to 100% for all subgroups by twenty-five percent. We have the most work to do with the African-American and Hispanic populations. We want all students to increase and thereby decrease the achievement gap with whites. Ms. Armstrong clarified gaps in annual achievements for the parents in attendance and the supporting mathematics. In essence, we are all trying to reach 100% but we are reaching for 25 percent. Quarterly assessments and the 90 minute NC Check-Ins will support our troubleshooting in reading statistics this year for accurate strategy direction. The second goal is to reduce out of school suspension data over that of the previous year. Mr. Folk reviewed this for each grade level based on average duration. While the number doesn't appear on the surface to be a lot, we can always improve was his impression. We want to eliminate the things that lead to out of school suspension. The goal will be 118 or less students with suspensions this year using restorative practices to help students make better decisions. We have 3 other goals, duty-free lunch and instructional planning and a safe climate. These were also addressed in action plans and review dates. We are addressing the need for homework support through practice and programs. The counseling department is making an all out effort in home visits and social worker communication.

Title IX was the next topic. There was no discussion.

Attendance boundary information was updated. We have a small committee that will lead an effort make a successful transition from elementary to middle school through school visits. Parents were invited to join this effort.

Final business was determination of next meeting dates. Mr. Folk will advise.