

Alexander Graham Middle School
School Leadership Team Minutes
September 24, 2018

The meeting was opened by Mr. Folk and began with a review of SLT team responsibilities as a framework for change. All stakeholders are strongly encouraged to contribute to the school improvement plan. A quick review of the process for developing the school improvement plan was presented and plans for the future.

The topic of the Dr. Wilcox's CMS Strategic Plan 2024 was discussed. Mr. Folk discussed the name's significance and explained the components. He focused Dr. Wilcox's rocks of equity and culture. He explained the emphasis of culture as a broad brush to include local and national cultures as inclusive. Three goals of graduation of meaningful employment or higher education opportunities. Emphasis was placed on rich, diverse and rigorous curriculum as well as social and emotional supports.

The focus is on content, teachers and students. Strategy 1 deals with objective groups and engaging them. Strategy 2 deals with management of resources, including people, as a current target, for example, job satisfaction. This may be a cultural question. How can we organize our people around the 2024 Strategic Plan is the initiative in play now and much has been centralized for equity in learning to avoid disproportionality. Dr. Wilcox was surprised at the wide range of scores and is currently addressing it. He is addressing equity. He is also investigating a variety of methods to address the student needs as well as positioning people to address the equity among schools. It is not considered to have a negative impact on Alexander Graham Middle School. A parent wanted to know what changes would affect struggling students. Mr. Folk assured her that this is being addressed through core curriculum and instruction in addition to its alignment with state requirements. He gave several examples. Another parent wanted more specific subgroup examples in the report. Mr. Folk gave the eighth grade Math I situation as an example and gave strategies for addressing growth through the school improvement plan.

An overview of the school improvement plan draft was presented and discussed. This is not quite complete. He presented the 90-day plan of encouraging positive thought on student ability in the student for a positive attitude. We will be focused on two goals. The first cultivate is restorative practices culture for a safe, positive, caring environment. This will be implemented through a reduction in classroom bounces. Mr. Folk discussed the results of a survey about children's attitudes of trust and ways to make that 100% trust and feelings of safety across the board. There is zero tolerance of students feeling unsafe. Mr. Folk assesses this a positive trending. The second goal is academic through research based strategies in reading and writing proficiency to increase college career readiness by 5 percent. In terms of the EOG, this is a level four. Current discussions on college career readiness is ongoing. Fifty-nine percent of our students were not college career ready. Mention was made of the subgoals and future plans of addressing them. He spoke of big rocks to resolve i.e., fostering positive relationships

and working things out in classrooms as opposed to simply leaving. A parent wanted to know what the buy-in was by teachers. Mr. Folk suggested asking them and Mrs. Chapman gave examples from her own experience. Mrs. Smith pointed out the benefits to other students that it is possible to work things out as a positive intervention in behavior management. The core of this is around self-efficacy, endurance and high academic rigor. We will focus on this and support our students. A meeting is planned for Wednesday 9/26 and look at school S.I.P.s and adoption of relevant strategies.

An overview of the school's safety plan was discussed. Mr. Folk presented the safety plan for the school, including key personnel and locations in the event of a crisis. He explained the levels of drills and corresponding procedures. We are not part of the nuclear emergency planning due to location. Lockdown procedures were discussed and corresponding specific action items. Bomb threats protocols and community response to death were discussed.

A review of Title IX Guidelines was discussed. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in federally funded education programs and activities. All public and private elementary and secondary schools, school districts, colleges, and universities receiving any federal financial assistance (hereinafter "schools", "recipients", or "recipient institutions") must comply with Title IX. This prevents student-on-student sexual harassment and sexual violence. Sexual violence, as that term is used in this document and prior OCR guidance, refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent (e.g., due to the student's age or use of drugs or alcohol or because an intellectual or other disability prevents the student from having the capacity to give consent). A number of different acts fall into the category of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion. Sexual violence can be carried out by school employees, other students, or third parties. All such acts of sexual violence are forms of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX and as such protected under the mantle of this law. It is a required topic of discussion at school leadership meetings.

Planning for attendance boundary changes 2019-2020 was discussed. The question was how we as a committee should approach this. He would like to begin a process of meeting with the feeder schools on how we can support them in middle school. Courtney's visit to Montclair was discussed. The schools are very open for the bridge to middle school and ready. Any suggestions are welcome. We pick up Pinewood and Montclair next year. Dilworth and Sharon will be dropped next year. We won't be overcrowded. Mr. Folk will follow up with parent leadership at both schools to make the connection. We will host them for one of our school leadership team meetings, welcoming them to AGMS early.

Other business topics were tabled for later discussion. The next meeting is slated for October 22nd. Mr. Folk will send the members a draft for comment in their emails.