

Student Improvement Leadership Team

Tuesday, November 7, 2006

Members Present: Mr. Hill, Rob Anderson, Kris Johnson, Emily Meyer, Mike Sheehan, Albert McGee, Leann Burris and Ross Young.

Principal's Update

- Items covered in the additional agenda items.

MAAP Information

- Rob Anderson shared information from Kip Sackett about MAAP events and activities. The annual MAAP Conference will be held February 21-23rd at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd.
- Volunteers are needed from each alternative program to help with the NW Metro Regional Conference on February 15th. See Kip if you can help.

Field Trip Opportunity

- Ross Young provided an update on the cost of taking students to see a performance of *We Got a Bingo* – the play is a sequel to *Don't Hug Me*. Transportation would cost \$1,000 and the play would cost \$800 regardless of the number of students attending.
- Mr. Hill is hopeful that the OALC will be able to access district activity funds in the future but there is no guarantee that funds will be available in time for the play.
- A decision on the play is pending based on the availability of funds to cover the cost.

R.I.F.

- The first shipment of R.I.F. books is in. Ross Young would like to have the student body participate in a book brigade. This was a positive experience the last time it was done - it gives students the opportunity to work as a team and see the books that are available as they are passed down the line.

Attendance and BST Numbers

- Rob Anderson explained the data on absences and truanancies for the first 32 days of the school year. The comparison for 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 was refigured based on the total percentage of students who are absent or truant on a given day as the enrollment numbers fluctuate from year to year. This was done based on the recommendation made at the last SILT meeting.
- Mr. Hill emphasized that the data is part of the continuing efforts to improve attendance and testing scores as part of the OALC Site Continuous Improvement Plan.

- SILT members discussed the possible reasons for the low percentage of students passing the BST math test and brainstormed possible interventions including:
 - Providing after school opportunities for test preparation.
 - Piloting a language arts class that would help students build their reading and comprehension skills in preparation for solving the word problems on the math BST.
 - Surveying students to find out what they see as obstacles to passing the test.
 - Providing staff with copies of the practice test to help familiarize them with the content and format.
 - Encouraging staff to incorporate math into all subject areas.
- Rob Anderson will e-mail staff requesting volunteers to be part of a task force that will make recommendations on how to best address the issues.
- Mr. Hill volunteered to draft a survey for students and Emily Meyer will also help.
- Mr. Hill will get copies of the practice test to staff.

Other

- Leann Burris requested that for the second half of the year that the PM meeting be held during “A” lunch. Mr. Hill will address the request at the next faculty meeting and staff will vote at the following AM and PM meetings.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 21, 2006.

Student Improvement Leadership Team

Tuesday, November 21, 2006

Members Present: Mr. Hill, Rob Anderson, Kris Johnson, Emily Meyer, Mike Sheehan, Albert McGee, Leann Burris, Sherry Augst, Don Myhre and Ross Young.

Principal’s Update

- Recent publication of testing scores: testing data for the OALC is similar to the district data.
- Update on student suspension and possible consequences.

OALC Yearbook Information

- Emily Meyers provided an update on the meeting with Life Touch. Emily, Barbara Ohnmacht and Christian Olson met with representatives to explore the cost of publishing a yearbook using the Life Touch on-line publishing program.

- The cost for a 50 page black and white yearbook would be approximately \$25 - \$30 per student. Life Touch needs 8 weeks lead time to print the yearbook.
- Discussion included:
 - Support for pursuing options that would enable all students to receive a yearbook.
 - Surveying students to find out how much they are willing to pay for a yearbook. Don Myhre can put a survey on the OALC web site.
 - Exploring other printing options such as the district printing services (\$1.50 per copy for a publication similar to the handbook) and Kinko's. Rob Anderson will also check with his wife who works in the printing field.
 - Offering an elective yearbook class.
 - Investigating a stipend for yearbook advisors.
 - Possibility of funds that Mr. Hill has available that could help with the cost of publishing a yearbook.

Math Task Force Information

- The math task force had its first meeting. Rob Anderson shared copies of the power point presentation from the meeting.
- Ross Young will be piloting a language arts class next trimester for students who need to pass the BST math test.
- Johnny Hedgepeth and Rob Anderson met with a representative from North Star Math and Johnny will be using one of their math programs to help students prepare for the test in his BST math classes.

English 9 and Science 9 Field Trip

- Morgan Kingstedt and Michelle Dillon will be team teaching a 9th grade English and Science class next trimester. They would like to take students to a climbing wall for a field trip. The cost would be \$15.99 per student plus transportation and sub costs.
- At this time SILT is unable to approve the request. Considerations included the cost and the small number of students the field trip would serve. Rob Anderson will ask Morgan and Michelle to look into other possible sources of funding for the field trip and a revised cost total based on students paying part of the cost.
- The field trip request generated discussion about the process for approving field trips and how to prioritize and evaluate requests.
- The suggestion was made to decide on a field trip budget for each trimester and set a deadline for applying for field trips each tri.
- The process for field trip requests will be carried over to the next meeting.

Copies

- Rob Anderson shared a question raised by a staff member who asked if additional staff could be trained to use the copier so as to not put a burden on Sherry when last minute copy requests are needed.

- Christian Olson will be addressing photocopying guidelines at the next staff meeting. Currently it is district and building policy to have only designated trained staff work the copier. Sherry will make last minute copies whenever possible. Following the 48 hour time window for photocopying is appreciated but the support staff understands the need for occasional last minute requests.

SSR 1st Hour

- Rob Anderson presented a staff member's suggestion to pilot moving SSR to 1st hour 3rd trimester. The suggestion calls for taking 5 minutes off of each lunch period and adding 10 minutes to the reading time to provide students additional time for finishing breakfast prior to the start of 1st hour.
- SILT members felt that including breakfast time as part of SSR would detract from the purpose of the reading program.
- The larger issue of students not participating in class while eating breakfast was discussed. Suggestions included increased administrative help in getting students to class on time from the commons area and support for consequences when students fail to participate while eating breakfast in class.

Music on Computers

- Staff is observing an increase in students streaming music over the internet and plugging their headphones directly into the computers. Staff are reminded to monitor students at the computers and support each other in following the established guidelines for computer use. The concern will be brought up at the faculty meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 5, 2006.