



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Wednesday, May 8, 2024; 4:00 p.m., Professional Learning Lab

Minutes

Members Present: Superintendent Dr. Marcus Lewton, Director of Instruction Melanie Kathrein, Assistant Superintendent Keith Harris, Board Member David Wilkie, Ms. Audrey Bergeron, Ms. Hannah Farstveit, Mrs. Holly Schild, Mrs. Tracy Lecoe, Ms. Maria Stockert, Ms. Nicole Weiler, Ms. Morgan Kathrein, Mrs. Elizabeth Kuelbs, Mrs. Meagan Schlecht, Mrs. Nicole Kittelson, Mr. Randy Muffley, Ms. Toril Sanford, Mrs. Tonya Bishop, Mrs. Chantel Heth, Mrs. Tammy Peterson, Mrs. Kandace King, Mrs. Cassie McWhorter, Mrs. Jennifer Nokes, Mrs. CaraLee Heiser, Ms. Casaundra Francis, Mrs. Sara Streeter, Mrs. Kristy Goodall, and Business Manager Stephanie Hunter.

Members Absent: Director of Student Services Sheri Twist, Mrs. Stacy Kilwein, Mrs. Sarah Trustem, Mr. Henry Mack, Mrs. Robin Swenson, Mr. Jeff Brandt, Mrs. Sara Steier, Mrs. Amber Berg, and Mrs. Jessica Wolf.

Call to Order – Superintendent Dr. Lewton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He will be collecting information from the meetings over the last four or five months and input the information into Cognia and bring it to the committee for review in the fall. He noted the North Dakota State Assessments (NDSA) window did close. The information would be available for the buildings to access during the School Improvement Camp.

Review and Approve the April 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes – Mr. Wilkie moved to approve the April 2, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Mrs. McWhorter seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Stipend from 2023-2024 Meetings – Superintendent Dr. Lewton explained the stipend will be prorated based on attendance at the meetings and the School Improvement Camp. The stipends could be dispersed as early as June.

Stakeholder Feedback Analysis – The committee members were broken into small groups by building. Dr. Lewton explained the majority of the work done today would be on stakeholder feedback on the surveys.

He had asked the principals to bring data to this meeting from the High Reliability Schools (HRS), the School Climate, and any other forms that may have been completed by stakeholders. He requested the committee not try and develop a plan to address any concerns noted in the data/surveys. The purpose today was to identify and prioritize the areas that were high achievements and the areas that could use some improvement. Those top two or three topics could then be brought to the School Improvement Camp for further discussion.

Cognia will require inputting the data sources. Examples could be longitudinal data or School Climate data. The School Climate Data has been collected for the past four years.

The target population will need to be identified. If the survey was provided to the fifth-grade parents, that would be the target population. Dr. Lewton gave an example of 1,000 families at the high school. If 100 of the families took the survey, that would be 10 percent.

Dr. Lewton said the administrators at the Central Administration Offices would assemble the information and draft a document to be summarized in Cognia.

ND A+ Interim Assessment vs. NWEA – The North Dakota Academic Progression of Learning and Understanding of Students (ND A+) is an assessment at no cost to the District during the interim assessment. It would replace the North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA).

Districts were given the option from the Department of Public Instruction to utilize ND A+ or wait. Dickinson Public chose to wait. By May 12, Dr. Lewton needs to let DPI know if Dickinson Public would be ready to switch to ND A+.

One of the pros shared by the administrative Cabinet of the ND A+ included the ease of administering one test, especially at the elementary level. The ND A+ is tied to the standards more directly than the NWEA.

Some of the cons regarding ND A+ shared by the Cabinet was the capacity of the Department of Public Instruction. The District would also lose its longitudinal data. The current assessment is consistent with the work on the Board Goals. ND A+ is also a work in progress. The level of support from the state is unknown. There is no national comparison.

Superintendent Dr. Lewton requested input from the committee. Ms. Bergeron said at the high school, there must be a buy-in from the students. The sophomores would be taking the test. Now it will be something new with no information to go off. The students will want to know the purpose of a new test. The students may also question why they should try.

Mrs. Peterson said there were unknowns with the new assessment including any glitches that have not been worked out. There have been several assessment models over the years. Mrs. King noted the DIBELS assessment was new to the District. The ND A+ would be another new assessment.

Dr. Lewton said an email would be sent today to the committee asking them to vote. He would try and attach a demonstration of the assessment to the email. Dr. Lewton will also ask the Cabinet members to vote.

Other – Superintendent Dr. Lewton noted the topic of bullying has surfaced in the recent Climate Surveys. The District will be discussing this in Cabinet and providing some support on the topic in the future. A plan will be drafted for the buildings to educate and prevent bullying.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.