

WEDDINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
SITE BASED TEAM MEETING
April 10, 2019 3:10 P.M.

In attendance: Dr. Jay Jones, Timothy Higgins, Shana Stewart, Jill Brooks, David Morgan, Christine Morgan, Jessica Martinez, Susan Winfree, Tracy Reed, Marissa DiFranzo, Lauren Waite. Parent representatives Debbie Schneider, Torrie Newman and Jeanne Snyder. Student Representative Emma Horn, Ajay Kumar. Guest Chad Smith

I. High School Leadership Program

Guest representative Leslie Ethan presented via Skype "Leader in Me" program opportunity for implementation consideration at Weddington High School. Leslie Ethan's background includes teaching English, High School Principal, Coach, and Associate Superintendent. She is actively launching Leader in Me in schools K-12 nationwide. While the high school Leader in Me program is not for every high school, it is designed to help with student accountability as well as student leadership. Dr. Jones states that while metrics and measures show how successful WHS is, with so many successes there is always room for improvement.

The Philosophy: "Leader in Me" helps schools create well-rounded learners by developing the whole-person and preparing students to become life-ready leaders. Leader in Me unites students, staff and families around a common goal to prepare students with college, career, and life-readiness skills that are necessary to thrive in today's ever-changing, fast-paced environment, like:

-Critical Thinking – Creativity – Self-Discipline – Vision – Initiative – Communication – Relationship Building – Goal Achievement – Public Speaking – Global Awareness – Social and Emotional Awareness – Teamwork – Listening Skills – Time Management – Leading Projects

The goal of the meeting today is to hear about the program and assess whether this is something suitable for Weddington High School. The current high school model is 2 ½ years old with the model being formalized two years ago. One major highlight of the program is for students to have the opportunity to sit for leadership credential. Credentialing exam is the exact leadership exam that Fortune 500 and military are taking. High school students are given some of the same opportunities that professionals are getting and students do like that. In the first year only 25 schools were accepted nationwide. This year they are accepting 100 more, totaling 125 nationwide. Six of those schools are in North and South Carolina.

Leader in Me High School Overview: SEE Core Paradigms: Paradigm of Leadership – Paradigm of Potential – Paradigm of Change – Paradigm of Motivation and Paradigm of Education. These paradigms do not change from K-12th grade.

Leader in Me highlights

1. Implementation of leadership - Professional learning and student readiness that includes integrated content into the study of choice. Students will have access to four core leadership courses including scholarship preparation opportunities.

2. Culture -Leadership environment tests what messages we are sending our students, are we building a trusting environment.
3. Student Voice - Student led teams who are trained to work with other students on campus and involve them in implementation of events.
4. Academics and Goal Achievement - Scholarships and school improvement plan.
5. Empowered Learning - Pulling content together, student led learning, units of student and personalization.

Student Readiness

Four courses that have been developed are as follows, and can be taught in any order.

Leadership 1 – Leading self includes: Be Proactive, Begin with the End in Mind, Put First Things First

Leadership 2 – Career Essentials

Leadership 3 – Leading Others

Leadership 4 – College Readiness – Senior Capstone Project

Courses are offered in 50 minute lessons over a semester. Students will access information through an online portal. Training includes leadership for adults as well as students mapped out in the Leader in Me high school process, which includes the launch and membership.

Site base team member questions:

What about fidelity of implementation and how would that include a personalization for each high school?

Ms. Ethan: The plans are designed to work into the master schedule of each high school. Implementation must be done year one with the freshman class so they can secure the leadership credential to present to colleges, as well as leaders in corporate America.

What benefits are there for upper classmen?

Ms. Ethan: All Students would be offered flexibility with taking courses. Seniors that are involved in this program have shared that the “7 Habits of Highly Effective People” was very helpful.

Teachers and staff members, what role would they have in covering curriculum and preparing students?

Ms. Ethan: With existing schools the philosophy is that this will become part of the operating system within the leadership that we are already implementing.

You mention the program would offer a rekindling of a fire with teachers, how is this a potential benefit?

Ms. Ethan: Staff would be part of a two day summer training which includes: Leadership, Culture and Academics. Renew, recharge and relearn skills is the goal of the staff training, with the ability to model being the goal. Program has seen great successes with staff thus far.

Dr. Jones asked if there is a similar school to WHS that we could look at.

Ms. Ethan: Yes, North Henderson High School has very similar student base. School is flourishing with this initiative. Moderator will research and get information on schools that are active with the program to get an accurate snap shot. Dr. Jones asked of the committee if this something that could work at our school and help us get to larger heights.

Mr. Chad Smith, Franklin Covey representative and meeting guest, spoke to the group about the program being a win for the school. He encourages site base team to visit the program at North Henderson to see what successes this program offers.

Site base team member questions:

Is this implemented by all staff or some?

Mr. Smith: At the K-8 level it is indeed all staff involvement because we want leadership to embrace program which includes training the adult teams.

How does the credential process work?

Mr. Smith: We are currently working with DPI to get recognized and certified. This includes Microsoft, the US Military and Fortune 500 companies, Boeing & Volvo are just some of the companies who want their employees credentialed. Students would sit for the credentialing exam which is online. The goal is to be on the list of state recognized testing. The plan would include every student, but each student would not be expected to test.

Mr. Smith states the program supports social and emotional components. Currently high schools are setting up kids academically but not teaching them how to live in the real world. Consensus of site base team members is favorable in further investigating the program.

Dr. Jones would like to explore further how this truly impact student's as well as teachers at schools. The plan is to go to a school and observe the program with specific questions for teachers and students. Student representatives to accompany to get students perspective.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

The next Site Based Team Meeting will be held May 8, 2019 at 3:10 p.m.