

November 18, 2015

Attendees:

- Dr. Jay Jones
- Angelique Ridley
- Kacey Reder
- Matthew Sams
- Amy Schallenkamp
- Annette Phillips
- Jarren Harrell
- Patricia Greene
- Karen Murphy
- Sondra Patton
- Brita Mann

1. Review of Collective Commitments

2. Student Advocacy Plan Update

- Reviewed the updated plan
 - Looking for a way to include the related arts teachers
- Teachers will be provided plan and materials by 12/18

3. Board of Education Meeting Dinner

- Dinner for BOE, Dr. Ellis & Cabinet Staff, and MRMS Site Based Team
- 5:45pm - closed session BOE business
- 6:15pm - BOE, have dinner, cafeteria
- 7pm - Open session of BOE Meeting
- Arrive at 6pm for dinner

4. 6 Week vs. 9 Week Grading Periods

- Dr. Ellis in principal's meeting expressed interest in school feedback on this topic, what's best for students, teachers, parents, support staff.
- Next month Dr. Jones will report back feedback from principals, site based, and staff
- 9 Week Grading Periods - Dr. Ellis input - very important that parents are kept informed with progress reports, currently send mid-point progress reports only to students who are struggling,
- For 7th grade, Science and Social Studies are one semester, 6 week grading is more appropriate
- For Related Arts, six week schedule is appropriate, works well with changing courses
- For Parents - concerned that kids might fall through the cracks, longer to keep them in check with grades

- Getting three grades in a semester course gives students more opportunity to pull grades up, three grades per semester instead of two
- Other school districts are on 9 week schedules,
- For 8th Grade - 6 weeks works well, so that students have the opportunity to bring up grades, especially with the beginning and the end of the year provides more opportunity to get grades in the grade book, 6 six weeks better balance for students
- Benefits to 9 week schedule - more opportunity to pull up grade within grading period
- Teachers - Report cards only 4x per year, but if all students instead of just struggling students need progress reports the workload is actually increased
- Consensus from site based: Remain on the 6 week grading period

5. Single Gender Classrooms

- Suggestion from Mr. Lyons
- Mrs. Reder, Mr Lyons, Mrs. Woolard, and Dr. Jones, visited single gender classrooms at South Charlotte Middle School
- Creates an option, not mandatory, different approach and delivery that is offered to students
- Boys and girls act and learn differently when they are in single gender classrooms
 - sometimes girls in single gender classrooms feel more comfortable participating
 - In boys single gender classrooms, trend towards movement, competition, other approaches that work better with girls
- South Charlotte
 - Have not seen significant differences in test scores, but have seen a lot of difference in how students work together and develop
 - Work together, have group pride
 - Has become so popular at South Charlotte there is a lottery to get into single gender classrooms
 - Mrs. Reader - amazed at how positive the atmosphere was in the classrooms, both genders had great energy and support for each other, helps reduce drama and increase camaraderie
 - Students at South Charlotte were very much in favor of it
- MRMS
 - Start to identify teachers who would be a good fit, and interested in single gender classrooms, be ready for parent meetings in the spring if MRMS decides to move forward
- Site Based Discussion - Consensus continue to explore this for MRMS
 - Experience with single gender classrooms at other schools was very positive, camaraderie was high, strong support for single gender classrooms
 - There is one single gender class at MRMS, very positive
 - Can teach boys very differently, the way they learn, more active and physical, girls can listen to lecture for much longer periods of time
 - Experience at high poverty school, single gender classrooms were very positive
 - Will central services support MRMS with enough staff to do both? No, numbers and teacher numbers will be the same

- Have to also be sure that both types of classrooms get EC services, can be a puzzle