

Myers Park High School
School Leadership Team Meeting 4/8/14

Members in attendance: Susan Ferone, Teresa Rhyne, Sandra Kindell, LaKeisha Stewart, Mickey Aberman, Jim Scott, Samantha Gleiser, Debbie Byrd, Amorette Mayr, Scott Martin, Mimi, Pickens, Kelly Gaines, Carol Wilson, Mark Bosco, Justin Holt, Mike Primiani

Meeting Minutes:

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from the SLT meeting on March 18, 2014 needed to be approved. Assistant Principal Justin Holt motioned for the minutes to be approved, and parent Susan Ferone seconded the motion, and the SLT team approved the meeting minutes.

Quarter Three Review of SMART Goal Benchmarks

Assistant Principal Justin Holt discussed the progress that is being made on each of the SIP benchmarks so far this school year. He first discussed Myer Park's progress towards increasing the graduation rate from 85.6% to 90%. He explained that there are 55 seniors that failed first semester. However, only 8 of these students are part of the case management group that was started to help achieve this goal. Additionally, the third quarter failure list generated by the counseling department shows 110 seniors with one or more failing grades. Of these students, 14 have been identified and are on the case management list. Holt stated that it is difficult to predict the graduation rate at this point. He has been working with Todd Porter in the counseling department. APEX and the new Afternoon Academy are both strategies that are being used to help these students to earn the credit to graduate.

The second SMART goal was to achieve expected growth or better on the Eng of Course Exams (Biology, Algebra I, and English II) amongst all subgroups. Holt explained that an analysis of third quarter failures in these courses indicates the following numbers of students "at-risk" as measured by class grades: Biology – 57 students, Math I – 54 students, and for English II there is not yet a list.

Holt then introduced the next SMART goal, which is to achieve 85% overall 'positive' score amongst teachers, students, parents, and community members. As of April 8, the teacher survey rate was just over 76%, and the deadline was extended until April 14. The main concern is for the parent and student response rate. As of the morning of April 8, 150 students and 110 parents had taken the survey. In order to increase student and parent participation teacher Katie Dudek and parent Susan Ferone volunteered to work with Holt. Ferone mentioned including information for parents in the Mustang Express as well as sending out ConnectEd messages. It was also mentioned that students could complete the survey during AP registration.

The fourth SMART goal was to develop a three-year strategic plan to address needs of technology, construction, and physical plant. Principal Mark Bosco reported that the plans have been approved to start construction at Myers Park. Boomerang is the architecture firm that will be working on the school. They will be constructing two buildings. One building will be complete by 2016 and the other will be complete by 2018. They are now beginning to plan exactly what the two buildings will look like and what features will be included to best serve both students and teachers.

The final SMART goal is to produce a less than 5% discrepancy in OSS incidents. Holt discussed that overall for February there was a 3.8% decrease in OSS and a 3.3% decrease in ISS. For April there was a 2.2% decrease in OSS and a 1.8% decrease in ISS. African American suspension rates have also decreased. The data shows that the OSS rate for African American students has changed dropped from 21.3% to 14.1% for February and from 21.3% for 14.9% in April. The suspension percentage rate for Non-EC

students, which includes minorities, has shown a decrease in percentages as of February from 24.2% in 2011-2012 to 4.9% (-19.3%) and as of April has decreased from 24.2% in 2011-2012 to 5.5% (-18.7%). In order to further work towards this goal, the Afternoon Academy was created. Using \$50,000 of Title I funds from the district, 18 students have been selected to participate in this program. With these funds, 30 laptops were purchased for next year. Students meet at 12:55 PM on the small cafeteria with Mr. Freeland and eat lunch. They then use NC Virtual Public School and APEX. The program ends in 5:30 PM and takes place Monday through Thursday.

Grading Practices

Assistant Principal Justin Holt then introduced the feedback that he received from each of the departments about grading practices at Myers Park. Holt organized the feedback into categories. Teachers gave specific feedback about late work, grade weights, and number of assignments. Teacher Jim Scott mentioned that the English department discussed a more formative split such as 50/50 or 40/60. Many departments feel that the 70/30 is very punitive. He also discussed that the number of assignments will look different for different classes. Teacher Katie Dudek mentioned that the World Language Department talked about creating a contract that provides students a hope of passing by changing their first quarter grade to 60 or 65 percent. This betters their chances of passing the class overall. Principal Mark Bosco stated that as of right now, Myers Park is still fine-tuning what grading policy will look like for each department. The policy as it stands is a living document.

Mecklenburg Delegation

Principal Mark Bosco announced to the group that there are two scheduled dates for the Mecklenburg Delegation (NC Senators and Assembly Members) to visit Myers Park. These two dates are Monday, April 21 and Monday, April 28. The visitors will be at Myers Park to take a campus tour and to listen to a panel of teachers from Myers Park and the district. Without getting into the politics of educational funding, Bosco wants to be able to address the difficulties of being a teacher in Charlotte, North Carolina. Some issues include low pay, not pay for advanced degrees, 25% rule for 4-year contracts, over testing, EVASS linked to evaluations, and low morale.

Next Meeting

The next SLT meeting will take place Tuesday, May 13th.

Submitted by: Katie Dudek