

Myers Park High School
School Leadership Team Meeting 2/18/14

Members in attendance: LaKeisha Stewart, Samantha Gleiser, Sandra Kindell, Sequoia Goodman, Mickey Aberman, Amorette Mayr, Susan Ferone, Mimi Pickens, Carol Wilson, Susan Marchant, Scott Martin, Nancy Carlton, James Scott, Justin Holt, Mark Bosco, Katie Dudek

Meeting Minutes:

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from the SLT meeting on December 10, 2013 needed to be approved. Justin Holt motioned for the minutes to be approved, Sandra Kindell seconded the motion, and the SLT team approved the meeting minutes.

Review of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) Benchmarks

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 stated that at this point in the year our graduation rate stands at 88%. This does not account for the data for the current semester. Mark Bosco explained that in order to reach this goal of 90% the administration has been focusing heavily on those students with 17-21 credits. Each administrator has a case load of five or so students to monitor and work with to ensure that they meet graduation requirements.

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. Mark Bosco explained that the test for these three subjects drastically changed this year. The level of rigor increased. Due to this, curved results were received. Myers Park has some of the highest scores in the district for the first semester of this year (Algebra I – 89%; Biology – 64%; English II – 90%). He explained that this is a good first step, however, there are another group of students that will test in spring that could potentially change these averages.

Justin Holt then introduced the next SMART goal, which is to achieve 85% overall 'positive' score amongst teachers, students, parents, and community members. There will be a CMS survey sent out to all teachers, and a selected group of students and parents. In the past, the participation of teacher and parents has been very low. Members of the SLT felt it would be beneficial to increase participation by developing incentives for teachers and parents selected.

The fourth SMART goal was to develop a three-year strategic plan to address needs of technology, construction, and physical plant. Mark Bosco reported that the initial work for the new building on campus would begin this summer.

The final SMART goal is to produce a less than 5% discrepancy in OSS incidents. Looking at data from 2011 to this school year, Myers Park is showing decreased percentages in every major category. On average, the percentage of suspension at this point compared to the end of the 11-12 and 12-13 school years has decreased. African American suspension rates have decreased from 21+% to 14%. The SWD suspension percentage has increased slightly, but so has the use of alternative to suspension methods including ISS. The suspension percentage rates for Non-EC students, which includes minorities, has shown a decrease in percentage (as of 2-10-14) from 24+% to 8.5%. The major "overhaul" was to totally review the entire Rights and Responsibilities Handbook based on infractions at Myers Park and stakeholder feedback. Administration looked at non-yellow page infractions that allowed for Tier 1 and Tier 2 consequences and pushed these infractions below the suspension threshold. Tier 3 infractions were also reviewed and pushed within the short-term suspension threshold.

Faculty Feedback of School Improvement Plan

Justin Holt presented the data that was compiled from a survey sent out to staff about the progress being made on the SIP. There were 61 total respondents. The major takeaway from these results is that for many of the questions, and majority of respondents answered “no opinion.” Mark Bosco and Justin Holt stressed that this means thought needs to be given to how information is communicated with staff. They need to be more aware of the initiatives that exist and the changes being made. SLT members also need to communicate with their departments about what happens at SLT meetings.

Grading Policy

Mark Bosco then introduced the grading policy that is part of the district’s Strategic Plan 2018: For a Better Tomorrow. He explained that the reasoning behind having a standard grading policy is that students have different experiences due to grading difference between teachers. Currently, there is no standardized grading practice throughout CMS. Three years ago there was movement to create standard grading practices. Now this is becoming more of a reality. There are controversial elements to the new grading policy. The idea of mastery learning is one of these elements. The grading policy states that additional practice will be provided for students who do not achieve initial mastery (80%), and that following additional practice the students shall be provided new opportunities to demonstrate mastery. CMS wants this to begin to be followed at every school. Mark Bosco would like staff feedback, and would like for department chair and SLT committee members to generate discussion within each department about this grading policy.

Anne Schmitt

SLT committee member Anne Schmitt has resigned, so there is currently another position available for another parent or guardian to join the SLT.

Minutes on Website

All prior SLT meeting minute have been uploaded to the school website. Justin Holt will continue to make sure that these documents are accessible to staff, parents, and community members.

Next Meeting

The next SLT meeting will take place in March.

Submitted by: Katie Dudek