# **Torrence Creek Elementary SLT Meetings 2018-2019**

# October 9th, 2018- 5:30pm

Welcome and Introductions Mrs. Taylor 5 minutes

Principal Report Mr. Bissinger 10-15 minutes

- October 25th- Book Fair Night (sponsored by Mathnasium)
  - o Games and Other Activities will be set up to tie in math concepts.
- October 31st is Conference Day- other times will be available if that date does not work
- Lake Forest Church has 12 volunteers working with K/1st Grade students for an hour each week on Thursdays. It is a great community connection.
- We recently hired Tristan Beckett as a new EC assistant. We did not lose any positions based on updated enrollment numbers.
- Instructional Assistants are starting new schedules this week supporting small group instruction.
- Teachers have a full day of planning this week for instruction and to analyze beginning of year data.

#### Mission and Vision Survey

Mr. Bissinger

5 minutes

- Melinda Grey (Principal Intern) worked on a survey for her graduate class to make sure our Mission and Vision are aligned.
- Based on the feedback, the staff feels that both the mission and vision accurately reflect the overall goals of the school.
- A document was shared with the team so they could look over feedback from the survey.

School Improvement Plan/90 Day Plan Team 15 minutes

- Draft plan was submitted to the district last week.
- It is reviewed by the district and feedback is provided with suggestions and possible changes.
- Last year, the plan was for a full year. This year, it is reviewed every 90 days. This gives
  us more of an opportunity to adjust our goals and make sure we are on track for end of
  year.
- This year, we are focusing on increasing proficiency for 3rd-5th grade students in CCR and GLP for Reading by 5% based on EOG scores. We are also focusing specifically on EC and EL students by working to increase proficiency by 3% in those subgroups.
- We now have two EL support teachers this year, which will help us tremendously with supporting our EL students. We also have 2 EC support teachers.
- We are providing training for teachers to dig into data and then provide differentiated small group instruction to meet the needs of all learners.

- In December, we will re-visit the School Improvement Plan to see if we are reaching our goals and make any needed adjustments.
- Desired outcomes include:
  - Inclusive teaching environment
  - Evidence of SIOP strategies within instruction
  - Effective co-teaching models
  - Collaboration with the EL and EC teams
- SIP goals are also aligned to the CMS 2024 Strategic Plan.
- Other goals include duty free lunch time and protected planning time for teachers.
- A question was raised about testing and Mr. Bissinger explained how there are state/district required tests, benchmark tests that look at mastery of standards that have been taught, formal tests for grades and informal assessments to inform instruction. It varies from one grade level to the next, but all of the data is used to determine what students have learned and what needs to be re-taught.

#### Grant Information

Mr. Bissinger

20 minutes

- List of Available Grants
  - Jason provided a resource from CMS called "Grant Alerts."
  - It lists a wide variety of grants with specific information about each one and deadlines for submissions.
  - Right now, we are looking at grants with rolling deadlines.
  - One that specifically might be good for STEAM lessons and activities is from Lockheed Martin.
  - Upon initial review, it looks like TCE would be eligible for this grant.
  - We would like for someone from the CMS grant department to come out, but we also want to make sure we have a focus before we invite them to join us.
  - Another possibility is Novo Nordis, which is more of a student driven opportunity involving community health and nutrition. (November 26th deadline might be a challenge).
  - A parent asked about crowd funded grants. We have several teachers who have used Donors Choose.
  - If anyone comes across other ideas, you are welcome to share them with the team.
  - Shannon and Christian will look into the Marathon Kids Play grant and reach out to the team if they decide to proceed and need help.

Title IX Concerns/Questions

Team

5 minutes

None

Next Meeting Date

November 13th, 2018

#### **General Questions**

- Is there a way to encourage students to be on time to school? Tardiness seems to be more of an issue this year.
  - Christian and Shona are working on pulling reports to look for chronic tardiness and then reaching out to families.
- What are we doing for Hispanic Heritage Month?
  - Our ESL teacher is working with teachers on some activities.
  - Students went on the news to teach Mr. Bissinger words in Spanish.
  - As a whole school, we need to improve and look at doing more next year.
  - Input and ideas from the parents are welcome.
    - In Florida, students dress in cultural attire from Latin countries.
    - Research projects are assigned to students about different cultures.
    - Online platform available from CMS with Spanish lessons (at home challenge).
    - Possibly look at expanding the 3rd grade culture fair to more of a school wide event.
    - Guest readers came into second grade and also shared about their culture.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:28 p.m.

#### Attendees:

Jason Bissinger- Principal

Shannon Lewis- Literacy Facilitator

Karen Falls- Assistant Principal

Christian Griffin- School Psychologist

Courtney Preville- 2nd Grade

Tammy Griggs- 1st Grade

Miranda Beatty- EP Teacher

Erika Rowlands- Parent

Melinda Gray- ICT/Principal Intern

Aaron Garcia- Parent

Stephanie Reid- Special Area

Priscilla Pierluissi- Parent

# September 4th, 2018- 5:30pm

Welcome and Introductions Mrs. Taylor 5 minutes

Principal Report

Mr. Bissinger 10-15 minutes

 Meeting once per month to come together as a school community to share our vision, collaborate on ways to improve and get feedback for how things are going at TCE.

- Meetings usually last about an hour and we try hard to stay on task, be productive and leave knowing that we have accomplished our goals.
- Great opening to the school year! Everything went very smoothly.
- Mobile classrooms are up and running. We are still working on some logistics and a few
  maintenance issues. Teachers moved in on 8/17 and the whole staff came together to
  move the teachers into their rooms in an hour and fifteen minutes. Great teamwork!
- Second and Third grade were chosen for the mobile classrooms because the state requires for classes up to 3rd grade to be capped at 20 students. K-1 are too young and 4th-5th could have more students, which would make the space feel more cramped.
- A focus on safety has been a priority for CMS this year, including the use of Lobby Guard for anyone visiting the campus. We are also keeping all doors locked in the mobile units during the school day.
- Our current number of students is 770 (20 under projection of 790) 170 more students than last year. Students from Blythe in addition to neighborhoods near TCE make up that number.
- Your patience has been appreciated as we have made changes to our car rider line.
  The city of Huntersville asked us to make improvements with cars backing up onto
  Ranson Road. We are down to 23 minutes at dismissal and work hard to get through
  the process as quickly as possible.
- We have some new special area classes. Mrs. Reid is in the STEAM Science Studio, Mrs. Dookhith is running the STEAM Tech Studio, Mrs. Thompson is running the Media Center (class checkout times for 2nd-5th and a mobile cart for K-1), Mrs. Sweeney and Mrs. Melliadis are in our Movement Lab.
- There are 21 new staff members this year and we are fully staffed at this time.
- The after school program is on a wait list. The question has been raised about adding more staff. It is an outside program managed by CMS and they are looking at adding additional staff.
- Mats were added outside of the doors to mobile units today. The question was raised about adding traction strips to the ramps. Diahann and the PTA will look into this.
- Mrs. Thompson has reorganized the library and is working with classes and teachers to help students find books. Teachers will stay with their classes during the scheduled check out times to help students select books. She will visit K/1 with a cart including high interest books and themes that go with grade level standards to help students make selections.

Purpose and Goals for SLT

Team

15 minutes

- Grant Writing
  - We are hoping to look into some Grant opportunities and get parents involved in helping to write grants.
  - This year, we are incorporating more STEAM activities and one thought is that we could write grants to support this effort.
  - Develop a specific mission and focus for what type of grants we want to write.
     STEAM? Flexible Seating?

- Below are the groups' suggestions:
- Platform to reach out to parent resources and community outreach to companies. For example, setting up the alcoves with cushions, furniture, etc.
  - Joe Gibbs/Hendricks
  - Hospitals (Atrium/Novant)
  - Rubbermaid
  - Sentry One
  - Banks (Wells Fargo/Bank of America)
- Bring back the busy bee program- putting things in envelopes for parents to work on.
- Finding a way to continue incorporating our new parents into TCE and making sure we have ESL supports in place to make them feel included.
- Finding more ways to incorporate technology into instruction and come up with more activities such as Lego or Robotics.
- Work with Middle and High Schools to help bridge the gap in helping with the students' transition by incorporating more flexible seating and movement into upper level classrooms. Possibly invite teachers to visit and see classrooms.
- Overall goal will be tying together the community outreach, parent resources and grant writing to work toward common goals and focus.
- Our principal, Jason Bissinger, will reach out to our district Grant Writing contact person and invite her to attend our next SLT meeting.
- Suggestion: Teachers can collect information at Curriculum Night about where parents work and what resources or services their company could possibly help provide.

# Curriculum Night

- September 20th- 5:30-6:15 and 6:30-7:15
- Book Fair coming soon with PTA Family Night sponsored by Mathnasium

# School Improvement Plan/90 Day Plan Team 15 minutes

- Process has been streamlined and the new plan is more simplified.
- More specific information on school performance based on last year will be released tomorrow. During the next meeting, we can look more into the specifics of the report.
- Overall Goal- Increase Reading Proficiency
  - Areas of Focus/Big Rocks
    - Examining Student Work
      - Making sure that we are consistent in our expectations for what students need to do in order to demonstrate mastery.
      - Discussing what is working and what we need to improve or change to help students work toward a deeper understanding of the standards.
    - Best Practices for EC/ESL Students
      - Working together to make sure we are doing the best we can to support all students and providing support as needed.

Team

5 minutes

• Parents are encouraged to raise concerns or meet with Jason privately if you need to discuss anything related to bullying or discrimination.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

- Tuesday, October 9th, 2018
- Review draft of School Improvement Plan and TCE Mission Statement

#### Revisit the Mission Statement of TCE

- Our Mission Statement
  - To prepare well rounded leaders for excellence through academic challenge and character development.

# Meeting adjourned 6:32pm

#### Attendees:

Jason Bissinger (Principal)

Karen Falls (Assistant Principal)

Shondrecca Taylor (Parent, SLT Chair)

Dan Tobal (Parent)

Crystal Pompée (Teacher, 4th Grade)

Stephanie Reid (Teacher, STEAM)

Courtney Preville (Teacher, 2nd Grade)

Laura Finley (Teacher, 1st Grade)

Erika Rowlands (Parent)

Miranda Beatty (EP Teacher)

Sara Self (Parent)

Nicole Clark (Parent)

Michele Clark (Aunt)

Tammy Griggs (Teacher, 1st Grade)

Rebecca Ramanand (RC Facilitator)

Heather Culm (Parent)

Shannon Lewis (Teacher, Literacy Facilitator)

Diahann Holder (Parent, PTA President)