

Student Achievement Committee Meeting December 12, 2013

Committee Members in Attendance: Tom Benton, Christine Kushner, Jim Martin, Susan Evans, Zora Felton, Monika Johnson-Hostler, Bill Fletcher. **Staff Members:** Jim Merrill, Cathy Moore, Marvin Connelly, Denise Tillery, Tina O'Neal, Maurice Pettiford, Brian Pittman, Darlene Johnson, Marie Palmer, Karen Summers, Suzanna Beamish, Stephanie Harris

Agenda Item 1: Approve minutes from the October 10 Student Achievement Committee Meeting

- Mr. Benton called the meeting to order at 2:59 and recognized the meeting agenda
- The October minutes were approved without changes

Agenda Item 2: RtI Implementation Update

- Dr. Tillery presented RtI updates and the Implementation Rubric for RtI in the district
- School Based RtI Coaches gave overviews of the RtI Programs at their schools:
 - Wilburn ES
 - Davis Drive MS
 - Wake Forest HS
- Board members inquired:
 - How the coaches are being funded?
 - Davis Drive funds their coach at the school level.
 - How many coaches are in the school?
 - Differs with the school and needs.
 - What was the work back ground of the presenting teachers before becoming coaches?
 - Is there any Data on how the program has helped students?
 - Student growth can be found on the school data wall.
 - School Administration developed PLT notebooks for all teachers to give them the data needed.
 - What is the primary source of data?
 - mCLASS – Principal purchased for the school.
 - How many students are involved in Kid Talks.
 - It was a long list in the beginning. They looked more closely at behavior problems and narrowed the total down significantly.
 - How critical is it to take the 2 years to get the program in place?
 - For the program to succeed, the school staff must be totally committed. It takes time and a foundation must be laid.
 - We need to hear more of this type information. How many students should this program expand to?
 - High School would like to expand to a bridge program to catch incoming freshmen over summer before entering high school level.
 - What other type of resources does high school receive?
 - High School receives funds for summer school.
- Rubric helps coaches to see how they are spending their time. Identify what to work on and if they are spending their time properly to reach their goal.
- It is important to get teachers to understand that RtI is how we need to do school.
- All the programs introduced this year can be used to show student growth.
- The organizing committee attended High Five meeting and used that structure to form PLT's.
- Middle School doesn't have literacy trained teachers, they are trained in their discipline.
- The Data Team is the core of instruction.

- The school has deep conversations on a monthly basis about individual students. They look closely at their history and develop individual strategies for each student. Strategies can't be the same across the board.
- Great gains are expected.
- Allotments for coaches will be looked at more closely next year.
- Tier one professional development and strategies developed through the Teacher Leader Corp.
- At the high school level, freshmen allowed to move a little more freely.
- Tier 2 needs more of the student's perspective.
- A business case is being constructed to expand the HS programs.
- Building the budget in this area may actually reduce dollars in other areas.
- Board members praised the teachers for their quality work .
- Board members would like to hear more about TAP in a future meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Ace Program Updates

- In the past WCPSS used outside agencies to provide programs to reduce long term suspensions.
- An equitable access issue has been noticed by community.
- Previously students declined the offer of ACE because they couldn't afford the cost of drug screening or they had transportation issues.
- Program Policy issues caused student suspensions due parents not participating as required even though student met their requirements.
- Brought program in house working with vendors under contract with us.
- Darlene Johnson, Director of Southlight ACE Program-Southlight partner.
- WCPSS looked at locations in the county and schools that would take on the program.
- Students are able attend at different sites if move or miss classes.
- Students are now back in school sooner.
- Reduced cost. No drug screening costs.
- Students aren't dependant on parental participation. Some parents do attend at least once.
- The program now has less declines which strongly indicates that the barriers have been improved upon.
- Staff is being diligent in following students and proactive in getting students signed up.
- Board members inquired:
 - How many students graduate without further incident and how many reoccur?
 - Data will have to be pulled manually and given in a future meeting.
 - How are school program locations chosen? Board members are concerned about school perception issues. When placing another program location they would like staff to consider a location completely different so as not to hurt school reputations.
 - What about the student who is distributing? That student needs it just as much as the user.
 - Principals can make the decision to offer ACE 2 program to distributors.
 - How will the program continue if federal funding ends.
 - Staff responded that WCPSS will fund.
 - Is Marijuana still the drug of choice or are other substances taking the lead?
 - It appears to be marijuana and alcohol are still the drugs most being used. Staff will bring data back to a future meeting.
- Board members are concerned that ACE 2 students have the same access issues. Staff needs to offer the same type program as ACE 1 to ACE 2 students. Staff responded that an outside agency is funding the program now and it is a budgeting issue.
- Board members would like to have a more in depth discussion in the future.
- Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.