



LEAN INTERMEDIATE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Preparing for future success...one student at a time

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OIMS BLT MINUTES Monday, April 3, 2017

Present: Jerry Trietley, Helen Button, Joel Whitcher, Maureen DiCerbo, Kim Kruse, Sue Kallenbach, Angela Mest, Stella Gonzalez, Paul Gonzalez, Giovanni DiCerbo

Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Trietley welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Jerry quickly reviewed the scope of the OIMS Building Level Team Committee and reminded the group that we are looking for representation from students, parents, community members and staff to discuss topics that affect OIMS. Concerns and action plans that come out of our BLT are carried to District-level meetings.

Mr. Trietley reviewed the minutes from the February 6th BLT meeting. All **BLT minutes** are posted on the District's website for public review. He also reviewed minutes from the February and March OIMS Springboard Committee meetings. He explained that Springboard is a forum for building constituents to discuss internal building issues.

Wellness Committee – We are working to focus on promoting wellness building-wide, including discussions about what we are selling for fundraisers and trying to encourage healthy choices.

Maureen DiCerbo provided an update on **IRLA and STAR** initiatives. She shared that our last visit with the IRLA coach will be April 19th to review all of the data and the progress we've made. Maureen talked about getting topic-related bins for students to have reading resources related to their curriculum in core classes. The last STAR benchmark will be at the end of May. Jerry asked the students present for their feedback on their IRLA experience. Stella responded that there isn't much time for the 7th graders to dedicate to IRLA. Jerry said we'll be looking for ways to schedule more IRLA time next year.

NYS ELA Testing – Mr. Whitcher asked what the 4th Grade team thought about the NYS ELA testing the previous week. Sue Kallenbach said her experience was that the kids worked really, really hard. She said about 20 kids went to the LGI room for extended time after working for an hour and 45 minutes in the classroom. Maureen shared that about 50 5th graders came down for extended time, as well. Jerry said that perhaps the state will come to the point where they say we'll give you an extra half-hour

instead of unlimited time. He is awaiting results of a survey that was sent out to administrators about the testing time frame.

Sue felt the 2nd day of ELA testing was enough – there was really no need for the 3rd day. Joel said part of the frustration is that we don't know what the field test questions are. The kids are overthinking some of the concepts because they are worried about getting it right.

Angie Mest offered that, for the learning disabled students, it was a difficult process. Having to read to the students made it that much more obvious what they had difficulty with. It consumed the class' entire day, and Angie felt it was a waste of 3 days for her type of students.

Giovanni DiCerbo offered that the testing was extremely stressful – he didn't sleep the night before. Angie added that as a society, we've put emphasis on the test not having an impact on a student's grades. She heard kids in the hall saying it doesn't matter. How do we change their mindset for the next round of testing? Jerry said that for the good readers, the test wasn't that difficult; but what about our kids in the 6th grade who are on a 3rd grade reading level?

Joel shared with the group that Maureen DiCerbo spearheaded a lot of the effort to prepare the tests. There are many hours of work involved – Maureen said administering the tests was extremely difficult because of the amount of accommodations necessary for IEP students.

Jerry said we achieved our goal of increasing our participation rate – 78% of our students took the test. Maureen mentioned we had about 80 opt-outs come in on the morning of the test. Even though the testing is no longer tied in to teacher evaluations and has no impact on a student's grade, taking the test is a good experience for a student to prepare for the Regents exams they will be taking in high school.

Joel said that last year we had kids opt-out after day one. This year, we did a robo-call to parents stating that if your child takes Day One of the test, they will be taking Days Two and Three as well. He also felt that, as a parent, it made sense to have your child take the test this year because of the changes instituted by the State (the questions were released ahead of time, the test wasn't tied to teacher evaluations, etc.) and to practice for future tests.

Sue said the 4th grade team made some parent contacts for students who made comments in the classroom about the importance of participating in the curriculum surrounding the test, whether they were taking the test or not.

Jerry reviewed the **CDEP Committee minutes** and explained that our BLT minutes are reported to CDEP. The April CDEP meeting was scheduled during the split spring recess, so it will probably be rescheduled.

The **CIAC Committee** worked on revisions to the standards-based elementary report card. Joel shared that the latest piece was a 5-point system which better delineates between kids who are scoring a 2, but not progressing and kids who are scoring a 2 and showing progress toward meeting grade level goals. Paul Gonzalez said, as a parent, it's definitely an adjustment to get used to the new report card format.

ELA Committee – Phase 1 is complete.

Math Committee – Jerry said the committee is considering tying state test scores into the criteria for placement in advanced math classes. Some kids just don't do homework. But one of those kids might be the smartest math student in the school. There needs to be more criteria than just the class grades. If a student is truly advanced, they should score a 3 or 4 on the state assessment.

Mr. Trietley reviewed a list of **upcoming dates** for OIMS:

04/03 – End of 3rd marking period

04/04-04/07 – No Homework Pilot Program (an initiative at the high school level to see if a week without homework provided some relief from the pressure of testing).

04/05 – Wear Blue for Child Abuse Awareness Day

04/07 – Magician Assembly for all OIMS students through Great Rewards (a lot of students ask when we're going to have something fun).

04/10-04/17 – Split Spring Recess

04/21 – Unified Sports Day at SBU (the event is really growing in scope & popularity)

05/01-05/05 – Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week (we wish to publicly thank our staff and teachers)

05/01, 03 & 04 – Superintendent Finalist Interviews (candidates meet with multiple constituent groups)

05/02-05/04 – State Math Tests

05/09 – 6/7 Spring Concert - 7:00 p.m.

05/11-05/13 – Whale Watch Trip (Jerry's first ever!)

05/19 – Exceptional Track & Field Day (we are proud to be able to host this wonderful event). Sheri Wilber takes on the planning of this incredible event each year.

05/21-05/23 – Washington Club Trip (another 1st for Jerry!)

05/25 – Parade of Graduates: Seniors come down to see their previous teachers and be role models for our students. All of the kids love it.

Jerry opened up the floor for questions or comments.

Meeting was adjourned.