

Meeting Minutes

Mike Failing opened meeting at 6:35 p.m.

- President's Report
 - Pam Failing out due to illness.

Dr. Pringle and Mrs. Lyle

- Extended Day
 - Design Team for School #42's Proposed Extended Day Plan consists of teachers of various grade levels and special subjects, administrators, Mrs. Scott (Parent Liaison), and Mrs. Failing (Parent/PTO Rep)
 - The team attended training specific to an extended school day
 - The Time and Learning Collaborative (TLC) has given us the components and then we put them into action in our own plan.
 - We are doing this for the benefit of our students and they are at the basis of any decisions that we make.
 - We confidently believe that our students will benefit from an extended day and this will make the students career and college ready in order to compete in a global world.
 - Extended day is high quality instruction, targeted intervention/acceleration, engaging enrichment, and teacher collaboration. It features more minds working together to make a better product.
 - We will take a school-wide approach.
 - The program must be high quality and sustainable.
 - Seven essential elements make this program highly effective:
 - Maximize Resources
 - Be Fiscally Responsible with finances, people, technology, and time
 - Focused Priority: Instructional focus that must cut across all grade levels and content areas. It must impact every student. Whenever there are curriculum questions, it must go back to that instructional focus. To unite the entire school and put us on a common path.
 - All Abelard Reynolds School #42 students will show measurable growth in their ability to read and comprehend using evidence from text to support open responses.
 - Can be taught using the strategy **RACE**. **R**ead, **A**nswer, **C**ite, **E**xplain. This can be used across the curriculum to answer questions.
 - Effective Practices with targeted intervention and acceleration
 - Per TLC, extended day schools have 120 minutes of intervention or acceleration per week. Individual time with each and every student.
 - Students are grouped basis on their common learning needs NOT based on scheduling needs.

- Engaging Enrichment
 - All students should receive at least 90 minutes of enrichment/week. Ways to make the day more fun and enriching. Could be tumbling, ballet, etc... The students would have an element of choice.
- Effective Practices
 - 307 minutes/390 minutes are focused on academics
 - 164 minutes = other (lunch, interruptions, recess, special activities)
- Frequent Data Cycles
 - Look at data and then DO something about it
 - Display data to see where the students were and where they have gone (so the learner/student can see their progress)
 - School-wide protocols (continuity for grade levels K through 6)
 - 60 minutes/week spent analyzing data including benchmarks at report cards, unit tests, AMES Web
- Teacher Collaboration / Professional Development (PD)
 - 60 minutes/week of collaboration with teachers
 - Administrative Support
- Second focus is on social-emotional learning.
 - pro-social skills – piloting in kindergarten classroom this year
 - Building into weekly sessions as part of the social studies curriculum across the grade levels
 - Primary Project: social-emotional learning program at School #42 that helps children who have trouble adjusting to school and during transition times ; using play therapy to help children develop pro-social skills.
- **Adding 300 hours to students' school year**
 - There are many options that we can do this !
 - Extend the day by 1 hour and add 3 weeks during the summer.
 - Add 10 weeks during the summer (120 hours in either July or August)
 - Extend the day by 2 hours (student day: 8-415 or 9-515 (depending on busing) with two exploratories each day and intervention or acceleration)
- Basic Schedule:
 - Breakfast
 - One hour intervention or acceleration
 - 6 hours of core instruction (about 6 hours) – ELA, Math, etc...
 - 2 specials/exploratories per day

- 30 minutes contractual break and 50 minutes for data and collaboration for teachers
 - Physical Education (PE) every day with one 80 minute enriched PE per week and one 80 minute enriched music per week (enriched = learn a skill then practice a skill i.e. tumbling, ballet, instrument, etc...). Through the remainder of the week, the students will rotate through specials (technology, art, library).
 - Last hour of the day dedicated to science and social studies projects and/or pro-social skills.
 - One Friday per month, students have half day and the teachers continue to work that day.
- What Happens Now?
 - Enlist our partners
 - Determine who can do enrichment
 - Determine who can raise funds
 - Timeline:
 - March 21: confirmation on busing and times of day
 - March 24: work session on scheduling
 - April 21: School #42 Extended Learning Team presents to TLC Committee
 - May 2: Plan is due to RCSD
 - May 26: School #42 is notified about sustainability of program
 - Building Vote – 80% yes by teachers for our extended day plan to pass
 - By June: expectations for the summer (i.e. training teachers on RACE and collaboration time)

Teachers are required to work the core part of the program.
- Teachers
 - The students may have more than one teacher/day.
 - The intervention/acceleration for the first hour and the social studies/science projects for the last hour of the day are optional.

Q: Is this for the whole building?

A: Yes.

Q: Will the students lose recess?

A: Unstructured play time will not be built into the schedule. The students will still have choices for their enrichment sessions.

Q: Will the bus routes or times that students are on the bus be changing to accommodate younger students because it is a long day for a child?

A: The bus routes will not be changing. This is one of our concerns. We are working with other schools who have already adopted similar models and learning what worked and didn't work for them. Most of these schools have advised that the changing are more difficult for the adults (parents and teachers) than for the students to adapt to.

Q: Have there been considerations regarding the monthly half day Friday for childcare?

A: This is still being worked on and discussed. Different schools do different things. There are discussions about the City Rec Program or having other adults/partners come in to work with the students. Keep in mind, these are considerations.

Q: What will we do to accommodate walkers when parents have to be to work at 8:00?

A: Breakfast room will open early. We are considering this issue and are exploring options with potential partners and volunteers.

Q: What if the teachers say, 'no'?

A: The school day will remain the same six and a half day.

Q: Is there a lot of interest from the teachers?

A: We are still looking at the preliminary survey, but so far there is quite a bit of interest. The interest varies based on individual (i.e. some are unsure, some want to work just the core, some want to work the core and then just morning or afternoon, some want to work the full day).

Concerns regarding the monthly half day because of expectations that children should be for the full school day from Monday through Friday. Concerns regarding extended day for grades K and 1.

Parent Concern: Would like parents to get a vote on the extended day proposal.

Q: Where is the funding for the program coming from?

A: The funding is coming from several different sources including a program allocation per child, community partners; it is our goal to provide intervention and acceleration by a certified teacher. This is probably where a bulk of the funds will go. For example, there could be 60 students in gym class with one gym teacher and two partnering adults. There are teachers who are working on writing grants to help provide funding.

Q: Will you be surveying parents or determining interest from parents?

A: Parents can find more information on the School #42 webpage. We have not gotten far enough to survey the parents. This is, however, the way that the RCSD is moving. We are the lowest performing district in the state. We need to think differently in order to have better outcomes. One thing we can do is to include an opportunity for input from parents on which enrichments that you would like to see.

Mike Failing with PTO Updates

- Thanks Dr. Pringle and Mrs. Lyle.
- Fundraiser Updates
- Recent Events Updates

Mrs. Scott with Parent Liaison Updates

- Pastries with the Principal at 10:30 a.m. in the library on March 26, 2014

Mr. Johnson with Updates

- Box Tops for Education Updates
- School Wide Beautification Project – Looking for Help with This!
- Science Fair on June 12, 2014 for grades K through 6
- District Wide Social Studies and Science Expo – Theme: Patterns
 - More details from Mr. Johnson if interested

Important Dates

- March 18: Spring Picture Day
- April 21: PTO Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- May 12: Wild Wings Program for Grade 4
- May 12: PTO Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- May 30: School Wide Roller Skating Party – looking for volunteers