

School Information

School Name: *Nathaniel Rochester Community School #3*

School BEDS Code: *261600010003*

District: *Rochester City School District*

Superintendent: *Interim Linda Cimusz/ Barbara Deane-Williams*

School Principal: *Rodney Moore*

Additional District Personnel Responsible for Program Oversight and Report Validation: *Dr. Ray Giamartino, Michele Alberti-White, Kirstin Pryor*

Grade Configuration: *K - Grade 8*

SIG/SIF/SCEP, and Cohort/Model: *SIG 4*

1. Please describe the greatest challenge yet to be addressed? What steps are being taken to address this challenge? What support from the NYSED Office of Innovation and School Reform would be helpful in addressing this challenge?

Our challenge has come from a lack of stability and some challenges as the District balances the needs of Receivership schools with systemic factors such as steady and changing enrollment of high needs students, bus schedules, etc. While trying to stabilize culture, we face our third time change in three years, we have new administrative teams, we receive new special education programs, etc. We understand the inherent tensions between school and district, but we wonder whether the OISR could intervene, support, provide technical assistance in these critical areas.

Internally, the greatest challenge is the need to follow through on the monitoring of key staff practices. We have put some good structures in place for social emotional supports, the STEM program and a system of intervention, but we have not yet developed strong systems to monitor these practices. We are moving toward electronic solutions, and the admin team must work to solidify their practice in this area.

2. What is the greatest accomplishment from the past year you would like the community to know about your school that not many people know?

Increased buy-in for mission, vision, including the STEM program, evident in the increased participation in monthly STEM Challenges, parent participation, presence in middle school programming, etc.

3. What is one practice that OISR should continue in working to support Receivership schools?

We hope that you keep open conversation with principals about day-to-day practices (in our experience, this was more the case in previous SIG years) which would then be discussed with District leadership. It was very helpful for the OISR staff to take the direct feedback from principal to then work with the District on the systems-level fixes.

4. What is one practice that OISR should discontinue in working to support Receivership schools?

Not sure.

5. What is one practice that OISR should consider adopting in their work to support Receivership schools?

We would propose more frequent walkthroughs in the school, perhaps quarterly.

6. Did the superintendent receiver use his/her superintendent receivership authority? If so, what is the most impactful way that superintendent receiver authority was used in the last year? Please explain.

Yes, initially, in August 2015, the Superintendent increased our school staffing resources, adding a coach and making an itinerant teacher whole. Since then, the biggest authority used has been to negotiate the MOU for 1617SY, which allows principals more autonomy over staffing, and more clarity on the expectations.

7. How has the school decision making process changed during the first year of Receivership? How has this contributed to improved outcomes?

Because the Receivership structure of focus on metrics with regular quarterly reflection and reporting borrowed heavily from the SIG progress monitoring, this cycle was already in place.

8. Would you send a district team to a “What Works in Receivership - Best Practices” Conference?

Yes, to learn from each other.

9. Would your district be willing to present a best practice at that conference?

Yes.

10. If so, what best practice would you present?

The District could present on the Employee Work Agreement and re-staffing process. Also, for several months we had a regular round table working session with the Superintendent, our internal School Innovation lead and HCI and/or budget, so that we could make quick decisions.