

**Walker School General
PTO Meeting**

11-19-14

PTO General Meeting

Wednesday, November 19th, 2014

Guest Speakers: Dr. White & Dr. Schneider

Principal Chisausky

Walker School Executive Board

- I. Call to Order 7:06pm
- II. Welcome and Introductions & Approval of the November 3rd, 2014 Minutes
- III. Treasurer's Report Approved
 - A. Approval of the Budget
- IV. Walker School Auction Announcement - March 7th, 2015 at the Hinsdale Golf Club
- V. Principal's Report
 - A) Schools Improvement Plan Review
 - 1) A Review of SELAS Program
 - Sel-a-Brate Our Students
 - We are working to create emotionally secure and confident students- SELAS
 - Reading, Math and SELAS goals
 - SELAS rich environment
 - Student Leadership Team
 - 2) Student Leadership
 - 80+ Students Their Uniform-Super Hero, Civil-service Uniform
 - Embrace that and identity
 - Parent Mentors with Mr C
 - Nominations Boxes throughout the School, every Friday
 - Word of the Month
 - Fish-Philosophy - Song Be There Play, Make Someone's Day and Choose Your Attitude
 - Dare-to-Care Be a Leader
 - Nomination Boxes throughout the School, every Friday
 - Example: Halloween Candy for 5th Grader with stitches who could not participate
 - Feeding the Children Worldwide- Charity Work is one of focuses with the Walker leaders.
 - Example: Box food for needy families in the Philippines
 - The kids are working in groups on specific Public Service Announcement Videos.
 - Example: What Does It Mean to Be a Leader at School?
 - Students modeling the behavior we wish to see at Walker School.
 - Heart of true change is when the children embrace SELAS themselves.
 - 3) Shifts in Our Everyday Math Program - Looking at Math in New Ways
 - 4) Flexible Grouping in the classroom helps kids move and learn to their level

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B) Impact of Technology - Still Evolving and District is Reviewing How to Use Technology best in the classroom

C) Long-Term Vision for Kindergarten is a full-day program but we are two-years away and require the space and the staff. There could be additional fees involved.

SPECIAL MOMENTS THIS YEAR AT WALKER SCHOOL

- Birthday Lunches with the Principal and make Birthday Buttons
- Orange Ruler - "I Always Measure Up" Theme
- Opportunities to Learn & Play

D) SELAS Themes - How do We Make It More Than a Gesture

- November: Unique
- December: Compassion
- Embed it within the classroom
- New Read-Aloud
- Civil Rights Period- in US History, to understand and use SELAS

E) Short Video- to Show and Share

- SELAS Focus Lunch & Recess
- Focus Areas
- Common Language
- Playground Safety
- Supervisor Check-In Meetings
- Addition of the Gaga Pit
- Natural Environment for practicing SELAS

VI) Introduction to Dr. White and Dr. Schneider

- We are seeing the shifts in the Math Curriculum
- 75% to meet or exceed their RIT growth
- Fall and January 2015 assessments, and May for Spring 2015
- Goals are 85-90-95% of MAP Testing and Growth Benchmark Data
- Students within the fourth quartile to be maintained or increase at the building level and each of the grade levels
- Teachers are offering Flexible and Fluid Instructional Groups
- Eight Mathematical Practices are being introduced via the Common Core
- Teacher is a facilitator of learning in the classroom. Child participation is encouraged and necessary in every situation. It's no longer a teacher's narration of procedure, it is teaching with interaction in every opportunity.
- Student Driven Mathematical Discussions not just doing Math the way we learned as kids but defining it and looking at the problem from different perspectives and utilizing words to explain Kids are asked to show how they got your answers.
- Deeper Conceptual Understanding and Application within problem-solving context

VII) Dr. White spoke to Common Core

- Teaching Math has become Procedural & Conceptual
- It was heavy on procedural in the 'old days' when we were kids.
- We are shifting to get a balance of conceptual and procedural when it comes to math

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- Now in our Math, Johnny requires the conceptual underpinning of the answer, and this differs from the procedural
- conceptual needs to be embedded at the primary level or otherwise there is remedial math in college.
- Feels front-loaded and heavy because of the need to hit home on conceptual.
- District 181 is working to find balance between Conceptual with Procedural.

VIII) Dr. Schneider spoke to the Common Core - “We are looking at what students accomplish in a K-12 curriculum.’

- Deeper - supporting, writing and reading - ask your child, “How Do You Know This?”
- What’s the difference between increments of (5)? Make it more than just memorizing...
- Metacognitive Levels of children and how to help them learn.
- History is less about the facts, but why those things happened...
- Set goals, know the struggles and the areas of progress: social, emotional and readiness to be challenged.

IX) Questions and Answers on PARCC Testing

- Helpful Tips for PARCC Testing
- Have them explain the answer... Typing Skills are necessary.
- Allow them to talk about it and put it into text with the key-board.
- Discussion and more writing components will be necessary to articulate the answer.
- Discussion, Review How Many Ways they Got Eight, $4 + 4 = 8$
- PARCC Questions, are available for the parents at Parent Teacher Conferences
- Parents can try these tests, just ask your teacher.
- There is a timed aspect to the PARCC testing.
- They are not measuring typing skills or math and reading ability.
- The kids are all at the same typing level, so they will be operating with the same ‘handicap’ if you will with the typing piece of the test.

Two IMPORTANT Things to Differentiate MAP from PARCC

- Grade Assessment & Procedural Assessment
 - MAP has a ceiling effect and PARCC helps us overcome this ceiling effect.
- We need to be able to test at different levels.

X) CLASSROOM TEACHING EXAMPLE: Mackey and Marek Co-Teaching Session

- There’s an expectation of precision.
- Student Engagement
- Student Collaboration in Flexible Groups
- Differentiation can be applied in a couple different forms in the classroom as you can see in this video shared in the meeting on 11.19.14.
- Scaffolded Questions to help students grasp concepts and then those that need challenges can do more.
- Flexible and Fluid Grouping is based upon skill-set.
- Students are using evidence to show how you arrive at the answers.
- Mrs. Mackey asked the 5th grade class to take 30-seconds, think about what you did wrong, metacognitive moment in class: precision, accuracy.
- We are reaching toward a shift in delivery of the information kids are learning.
- There was also an exit criteria, and then a quiz to see how the children absorbed the information.

XI) Active Learning is another new concept

- Students work, talk and move-around within the classroom
- The students are building, receiving instruction.
- 9-minute rotations, to engage the students - attention spans are limited. The knowledge doesn't become deep-seeded...if they lose attention.
- Gifted Education translates to all types of learners per Dr. Schneider.
- Dr. Schneider, is saying with grouping and common core is to SLOW IT DOWN, define why things are higher or lower. We want our kids to have that bigger understanding.
- Learning something fast jumbles the conceptual learning and causes gaps.

Grouping and Defining Grouping - Dr Schneider & Dr. White Collaborated

- We have been saying, gifted ed, had it right the whole time.
- Permanently-ability group, we find that it's best to move kids around.
- The kids are different based on interest, skill and knowledge.
- In the next unit, you may group differently.
- Teachers should have the ability to re-group throughout the year.
- There are inconsistencies in groupings across the buildings.
- Dr. White said, he has heard, "So many things are changing so fast" - so he is holding, working to do better at what we have first...and slow things down.
- It would be too much to introduce Science into the elementary grades K-5 now.
- Math at the high school level will be regrouped and broken into CONCEPTS 1 to 4 versus subject titles.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Dr. White says the teachers sees their own growth with this new curriculum.

Learning for All- Collaboration and Co-Planning

Long-term planning for products coming down the pipeline.

Subs are there for teachers to have forward planning.

At the district level, we are monitoring having the teachers outside of the classroom per Dr. White.

Dr. White is working on balance.

They are working on solutions, contractual piece and a cost issue.

Student Progress Measurement Process

Benchmark ratings: Math and Reading - 6 to 8 weeks in the first portion of the year

Teacher knows student's ability and then the teacher brings in specialists as needed.

There is a continuum of assessment learning, more data now than in 1999.

Technology in the classroom, the district is in the process of an Education Tech study.

Tomorrow night we are pitching for financial support. We went out and found Ian Jukes, top-tier Education Tech, who will define how best to combine technology in the classroom.

Foreign Language Offerings

Dr. White, it's a long way away, it's not on the radar yet as it requires a study.

Kurt Schneider - balancing the new elements. Science is the one thing we are slowing down to accommodate the needs of the other subjects. The work focus is to get math right.

Foreign Language is so very important.

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Language Labs is at lunch on Mondays.

End of Meeting Open Forum Questions & Statements

Is our ratio of instructional aides to students correct for Walker School? Our ratio of instructional aids and tutors at Walker is less than the other schools- is that sufficient? Is it adequate?

What is Co-Teaching, do some teachers like it and are better at collaborating?

Differentiation and grouping are conversations that are being had nationwide.

All Day Kindergarten - Dr. White says yes, to it. Two years out, space and money, and Butler did a fee-based structure.

Special Interests Before and After School - have a gap solution.

There is only so much that people can do.

Jason Elk volunteered to help with this Special Interest group.

There was an inquiry about morning supervision.

There was an interest in forming sub-committees.

Key-Boarding Coding class is at the Park District - it's a continuation. It is something that is being offered to help kids prepare for PARCC testing.

We are doing After School Sports...per Kelly at CH Park District. There is also an After School Fun program 3-6pm.

What does PARCC cover? Is there a science element? No, PARCC is just Math and ELA.

Adjournment: 9:04pm