

Directors' Meeting
10.3.17 – 10:30 a.m.

Present:

Cartner	Floyd	Pauley	James-Davis
Sanders	Austin	Lane	Sawyer
Cox	Cowell	Godfrey	Flach
Davenport	Whitehurst	Hawkins	Thompson

Dr. Cartner opened the meeting.

Austin reported that beginning of the year testing/assessment of 3rd graders has been completed and results are great. As of today 134 of the current 3rd grade students received “good cause exemption” and that says a lot about the work done by K-2 teachers to prepare them 3rd grade. Sanders shared that several students scored at 99th percentile and most of those students were EL students. Dr. Cartner suggested that Austin send an e-mail to make teachers aware of the scores.

Godfrey reported that approximately 4000 Chromebooks have been distributed for student use. Lane and Hawkins commented that during school visits they are seeing them being used quite a bit. Dr. Cartner suggested that Godfrey send out a quick “tech fact” email about the Chromebooks.

James-Davis reported:

- CTE students receiving credentials is at a 60%
- She, and Sheila Hughes (NHS health sciences teacher) will be recognized at an upcoming CTE conference for having one of the first CTE certified health science pathways in the state
- Plans are underway to hold a Workforce CTE Conference for area employers in March 2018
- Officials on the USCG base have declined to accept students for apprenticeships
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Dr. Cartner suggested that James-Davis send a “CTE Quick Facts” email.

Pauley reported that the first AVID Professional Learning Workshop (APLW) for the district was held recently and was very well received. The workshop covered growth mindset, collaborative study groups and WICORizing with Digital Tools. Dr. Cartner suggested sending out an “AVID Quick Facts” email.

Davenport reported that Deneal Banks has been hired to work at the Title I Parent/Community Center and AVID will be one of the projects she works on – beginning with organizing a K-2 parent night for AVID. Dr. Cartner suggested sending out a “Family & Community Center Quick Facts” email.

Flach reported that Support Services is working on a form for parent volunteers to help with field trip requirements for nurses to be present. The volunteers will be certified nurses and the form will serve to make parents aware that a volunteer nurse will be on the trip.

Dr. Cartner shared the following:

- The NC General Assembly is back in session and at this time he is not aware of education issues scheduled for discussion.
- Board members will attend the NCSBA Annual Conference in November 2017. He discussed the relationship between state level organizations (NCSBA, NCAASA, NCPAPA, etc.) and the need for common platforms.
- He is being interviewed by Dr. Hezekiah Brown for ECSU radio (WRVS) today.
- District-wide there has been an increase in personnel issues that have had to be dealt with. He reminded everyone of his past comments encouraging everyone to be professional in all situations because video and audio recordings are frequently in use. He commented that one school has taken his suggestion to collect cellphones to heart and it would be a wise strategy on the part of adults.

Dr. Sanders shared the following:

- Dr. Eddie West with the Masonboro Group is conducting an “Assessment Center” for potential leaders today
- The DPI Certified Needs Assessment for ECMS is in process today
- Shannon Thompson (Learning Focused) will be in the district Wednesday through Friday for classroom walkthroughs
- She is working on the District Improvement Plan
- Schools are reaching out and asking for help – which is a good thing.
- There are a lot of positive things happening in the schools.

Lane shared that a presentation proposal on the district’s “Teacher Talks...” was submitted for the NERESA Fall Conference.

Lane, Cowell and Sawyer are working on creating social events for “Beginning Teachers.” The first event planned is a visit to Hunt Club Farms in VA for a Halloween Hayride (discounted tickets were provided by HCF and 15-passenger vans were donated by Rick Durren for the trip).

There was group discussion about the need to reach out and provide support (personal and professional) for folks new to the district and new to the area.

Sawyer reported that approximately 35 attended the Parent Academy held recently and she has received positive feedback.

Godfrey reported an uptick in requests for training on Canvas.

Hawkins reminded everyone that the October PMCE meeting is scheduled for October 4th at Berea Baptist Church. Central Services will be recognized at the meeting.

Sawyer asked about doing a “shoutout for the week” to include all of the information that Dr. Cartner suggested go out in “quick facts” – it was decided that individuals should send the quick facts on a non-scheduled basis and the information can be compiled to include in the monthly newsletter.

Dr. Cartner asked for group discussion about what Central Services administrators need to do or what can they do to get out of district improvement.

There was group discussion about connecting with new teachers, especially those hired through programs like VIF, to provide support (personal and professional needs).

Dr. Cartner asked for discussion on what the district can do for the six low performing schools to move them out of LP status. He asked about the culture in those six schools and what can be changed to make a difference.

Group discussion covered:

- Elementary schools have strong instructional coaches this year and that should make a difference
- Principals need to be made aware of, and then they need to address, the negative impact that comes from within their schools

- Staff morale (some schools are doing great with regards to morale and others are struggling)
- Suggestions were made to approach issues with a positive perspective vs. negative perspective
- Support offered by PST (team members offer support, give positive comments, make one-on-one connections, clarify issues, etc.)

Dr. Cartner asked what the district can do on the technical side to help the six low-performing schools.

Group discussion covered:

- Data meetings with schools to help them understand exactly where they are
- EVAAS training for select principals & coaches
- The need to act quickly when specific recommendations are not acted on (ex. if below grade level work continues)
- The need to create a sense of urgency for higher order thinking skills by modeling lessons and providing quick feedback following walkthroughs (teachers should understand the goal is to work quick, fast and now)
- Progress monitoring meetings
- Assessment
- Need for text complexity for ELA
- Ensuring the media centers are the hub for every school (that is being worked on)
- Resource Notebook for Curriculum & Instruction – a notebook has been created that includes FAQ for Learning Focused, graphic organizers by grade level, scaffolding document and other information that needs to be in the hands of teachers. The notebook is a work live document and information will be added as needed.

Dr. Cartner asked for key points to change at the six low performing schools. Group discussion covered:

- Emphasis on “best practices”
- Word Wall refresher (should be used for instruction)
- Refresher on importance of anchor charts
- Sense of urgency (no time to waste, use every minute of instruction)

Dr. Cartner asked how this information is communicated to teachers. The responses were:

- It is being communicated in monthly grade level meetings
- One-on-one with teachers and principals
- Follow-up at the principal level after walkthroughs
- Observing and giving feedback (positive feedback is important)
- During “Teacher Talk” (a positive culture has been established for teachers to feel safe to ask questions)

There was additional discussion surrounding what “we” are missing in doing these things and what put the 6 schools in low performing status. Topics discussed included:

- Accountability is the biggest piece that has not been taken as serious as it should have been
- Need for targeted professional development for principals of low-performing schools
- Mentors
- Best use of Federal Funds (explore ways to use Title IV to target specific groups)
- Need for principals to ensure grade level content is taught and to best utilize staff when there is a need for long-term substitutes
- Administrators need to ensure teachers are teaching for full class periods (especially at the high school level)
- School Improvement Plans (the district will create/provide principals with specific tasks to include in SIP)
- Need for critical conversations

Dr. Cartner asked everyone to pay attention to the kids and how they are reacting to the recent shooting in Las Vegas.

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.