

# Alexander Hamilton Middle School

"Destined for Greatness"

December 2, 2014

## SDMC Agenda

### I. Welcome, Sharing, Recognition

Through a grant from Schlumberger our students have received 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place at their first competition and will be recognized at the December board meeting. The NJHS induction will take place next week. We will be inducting twice as many students as last year. Magnet recruitment is underway and our goal is to receive 700 applications in phase 1. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Sandwiches for all event is schedule from December 7, 2014 from 2 – 4 p.m.

### II. Curriculum and Instruction

#### Technology

Feedback was provided by Ms. Mollett, Mr. Lira and Mr. Martinez. The math department favors mounted projectors and additional iPads while the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers indicate they would prefer additional laptops. Ms. Hampton asked teachers if they were familiar with Chrome books. They do not have a hard drive and are less expensive than laptops and don't come with the same restrictions as the iPads. Ms. Luthy discussed the Power Up initiative as she had experienced it with her son at the high school level and suggested that as we do a needs assessment, we consider what we want, what we don't want, and how we will monitor usage. Ms. Hampton stated that after speaking with Mr. White, campus instructional technologist, a call would be made for a technology committee to meet and develop a 3 year plan for campus technology acquisition, implementation, and professional development as it relates to the needs of the campus. Ms. Shanita Johnson asked if we would reach out to the PTO for input on the committee. Ms. Hampton said that we would and Ms. Johnson volunteered for the committee.

#### Master Schedule

The 2015-2016 Master Schedule was discussed. Feedback was given from Nurse Webster, Mr. Lira, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Valentine. Nurse Webster said that teachers she spoke with would like to have an alternating block on Fridays: one Friday would be periods 1 – 4 and the following Friday would be periods 5 – 8. Mr. Lira said that many teachers he spoke with don't like flex and would prefer to change to a 10 period schedule. One concern that was brought up by Ms. Valentine is the amount of class time that would be lost on a 10 period school day. Ms. Hampton stated that she would check on class time lost. She also reminded everyone that the final decision would be based on what was best instructionally for student learning and not what might be more convenient for adults. She also addressed the class size issue that was mentioned by explaining that the way the current schedule was set up, sixth grade classes should be at a maximum of 25 and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade at 28 – 30. Some classes did exceed that size and adjustments could be made to the schedule to alleviate that issue for next year.

It was also mentioned that teachers were in favor of a one day per week early dismissal day. However this is difficult for parents as they have to have child care when students are out early. Additionally it would take the coordination of the transportation department and Hogg Middle School. Ms. Hampton said she did not feel like this was feasible for next year due to logistical issues. However, if something changes, she will alert the committee.

Last it was brought up that teachers would like to move to a 9 week grading cycle. Ms. Hampton explained that she did check on this and that the 9 week cycle was for elementary schools. Ms. Valentine stated that Lanier Middle School was on a 9 week cycle. Ms. Hampton said she would continue to investigate and report back to the committee.

#### Professional Development

It was brought up that several teachers needed the 6 hour GT update training. In previous years this has been part of the pre-service training provided by the district. This year district training was cancelled. Ms. Hampton stated that teachers could use Off Campus Duty and she would get with Ms. Trendell for a schedule timeline. Ms. Valentine suggested and Ms. Hampton agreed that next year it be addressed in pre-service planning.

#### Principal Report

The campus has recently finished snapshot 3, but the data is not all in. Plans are being developed for intervention second semester for flex, after school, and Saturdays. Flex will not change every 3 weeks as it did last year. Deans will be coordinating with departments to determine how to identify the right students for each group. Ms. Hampton explained that the administration will do the leg work of making invitations and calling parents to get the right kids here. She asked that teachers support this effort through signing up for two Saturday's between now and April.

Ms. Hampton attended the final budget conference just before the Thanksgiving break. After snapshot, we owe back about \$100,000. This is a bit more than originally estimated because in addition to falling short of projections attendance went down by .4% and the number of students on free and reduced lunch decreased. However, Ms. Hampton stated that the school was financially sound and this would be absorbed without a problem.

#### III. Community

Ms. Hampton asked for ideas regarding holiday festivities. She also reminded everyone that the next Coffee with the Principal would be December 18.

#### IV. Safety and Security

Teachers on Duty: Ms. Hampton reminded everyone to help ensure that teachers where in the hall and actively monitoring and helping to move students to class. She also expressed that if teachers had concerns about how a discipline matter was handled that they should speak to their dean. If the dean is not addressing the write-up, then discuss it with Ms. Hampton.

Ms. Hampton also let the committee know that next semester there would not be outside sports equipment allowed on campus. The school would be ordering basketballs, soccer balls, et.al. for student use in the mornings and during lunch. This would alleviate the issue of balls bouncing in the halls and some teachers allowing students to bring them to class while others don't.

Mr. Martinez asked that the CO2 levels in rooms be checked. He gave reports indicating the amounts were high. Ms. Hampton said that she would check with Mr. Montenez and contact the district

#### V. Questions and Concerns

- Next meeting is in January: Alderete will send an invite.

Attendees: Hampton, Mollett, Hawkins, Lira, Webster, Myers, Alderete, Valentine, Nancy Luthy, Elyza Sanchez, Martinez, Rose Sharning, Shanita Johnson.