

SDMC Community Meeting
Minutes
October 25, 2018

Mr. Amerson was presented with a gift from PTO as part of Principal Appreciation Month. The school accountability system is new this year. It should be in place for the next five years. This year the state is giving schools letter grades. The accountability rating can be found on the TEA website.

The goals for the year are:

District Goals

- Improved Math Instruction
- Data-Driven Instruction
- Social Emotional Learning support

Poe's Goals

- Increase level of G/T engagement
- Level of cognitive engagement
- Authentic learning experiences

Mr. Amerson explains the three ratings of the STAAR test: Approaches GL – met standard or above, Meets GL standard or above and Mastered GL standard.

Poe outscores the state and district average, but typically Poe's African American and Hispanic populations score lower than White and Asian. The special education population is especially low. The special education population includes the life skills class as well as our students who are serviced by special education but are in general education classrooms.

Math percentage ratings have dropped across the board.

Writing has also decreased in percentage ratings of STAAR. This happened district-wide, but Mr. Amerson said it is not acceptable for us.

Fifth grade science scores were lower last year. Mr. Amerson explained that fifth grade is now departmentalized, with three of the teachers teaching only science and math.

In looking at the same groups of students over a three year period, there appears to be a lack of growth with the white population. Special education remained low over all three grade levels.

Beginning of the Year assessments in Reading show that students enter Poe reading at a high level. Students are not, however, maintaining the high level which coincides with concerns about growth of students and reaching and maintaining G/T students.

Ms. Freeman explains that many of her student have shown great growth since the beginning of the year assessments. One community member asked if Poe had several entering kindergarten students that

were six years of age when entering kindergarten. Mr. Amerson explained that if a child is six years of age when entering Poe, they would be placed in first grade.

On the states new accountability system, Poe meets the standard in every area.

Distinctions: Poe did not receive any distinctions in ELA/Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, Comparative Academic Growth , Postsecondary Readiness and Comparative Closing the Gaps. Mr. Amerson expressed a great concern with Poe not receiving any distinctions last year.

2018 Academic Growth Data Table-Several of our students have decreased in growth over the last two years. Mr. Amerson stated the importance that teachers become experts in the standards and teach exactly what the state requires so that students have a fair chance on the tests. The standards from the state are not debatable.

Short Term Goals

- Increase the % 3rd grade bilingual students meeting standard
- Increase % Special ED students meeting standard
- Get the 16 long-term ELL students out of bilingual
- Get teachers to every district curriculum training.

Strategies:

- Dana Vontoure Math Training-numeracy
- Added a counselor
- Extra 5th Grade Teacher
- Departmentalization in 5th Grade
- 2 recesses
- Neighborhood Reading Mentors
- Working with Zack Bigner (accountability) for distinctions
- New dyslexia interventionist- Ms. Freeman said that the new interventionist has already made accomplishments with her students.
- Continued improvement in the IAT process
- Writers in the Schools
- Daily 5
- Bi-weekly data/IAT/PLCs

Mr. Amerson said that his goal this year is to earn at least three distinctions.

Writers in the Schools-WITS

We will continue having WITS in 2nd and 3rd grade and later implement the Writers Collaborative.

Heather Houston said that if Dana Vontoure (math specialist) was needed more, the PTO could take another look at their budget to have present more training to teachers.

Mr. Amerson pointed out that our population increase may have had an impact on student growth. The future SDMC meetings were listed.

Heather Houston brought up rezoning of Poe. Jennifer Delange also brought up the fact that Poe has not been included in the bond funds. There was much discussion on the over-crowded condition here at Poe. Another community member asked how often the district looks at rezoning. Mr. Amerson said that HISD Demographers are responsible for doing that; he has asked in the past, but rezoning has not happened. He does not know when or if it will.