

the



Alexander Hamilton Middle School

*"Strengthen the Knowledge, Strengthen the Character, Strengthen
Future!"*

January 26, 2016

At Hamilton we will...

- ☒ Incorporate technology to engage students and develop the HSID global graduate profile.
- ☒ Use Thinking Maps to help students organize their thoughts and think critically.
- ☒ Have students read, write, think and speak every day in every class.
- ☒ Develop student academic vocabulary with the incorporation of word generation in flex.
- ☒ Promote literacy across our campus with 100% participation in the read aloud and encourage students to participate in the 40 Book Challenge.
- ☒ Develop a personal growth mindset and teach students the power of the growth mindset

So that....

- ☒ Student achievement in Level II Performance will increase 10%
- ☒ Student achievement in Level III Performance will increase by 10%
- ☒ The achievement gap between at-risk and non-at-risk students will decrease by 10%

Welcome, Sharing, and Recognition

Curriculum and Instruction

- Student Achievement Updates
- Technology Updates
- Master Schedule Updates (2016 – 2017)
- Professional Development (2016 – 2017)

Principal Report

- Budget Update
- Staffing Update

Safety and Security

- Crossing Guards
- Student Drop off and Pick Up
- Campus Security updates

Community and Calendar

- SouperBowl of Caring
- NJHS Induction
- January 28: Coffee with the Principal
- Creating a Vision and a Mission for AHMS

Minutes:

Welcome, Sharing, and Recognition

PTO Updates: Spring Thing is schedule for May 21, 2016. This date is later than normal. Concerns were expressed about participation. We will invite all of our incoming 6th graders which we hope will result in an increase in participation. The PTO also received a \$500 sponsorship from one of the local businesses.

Curriculum and Instruction:

Student Achievement: We recently finished the I-Station Middle of the Year benchmark. We did not see a lot of movement between Tiers. However, our progress compared to the district was good. Additionally these scores give us a predictor to how students will perform on STAAR and it is another piece of data that we can use to plan instruction. Snapshots will be given across contents on February 1 – 5.

Technology Updates: A group of 5 teachers will be attending the TCEA conference on February 3 -5. These teachers have not previously attended a technology conference. We will also have an opportunity for teachers to attend Ipadpalooza training in the summer. Teachers attending conferences will present at the 2016-2017 pre-service.

Master Schedule Update: Ms. Hampton asked members to give their feedback on the current master schedule by sharing something that they believed worked well currently and one thing that they felt needed to be improved or changed. The list of things that the committee thought worked were: block scheduling; cluster grouping; Friday schedule make-ups (for time missed for holidays); Friday 1 – 8; and academic team time. Those things that they asked to be addressed were: homerooms traveling together (although feedback on this is mixed); flex in general; Friday 1 – 8 does not provide enough teaching time; longer lunch times.

The discussion then centered around the concerns regarding flex. Ms. Hampton explained that while the administrative team agreed that flex was a big problem there were also needs that it met for students and the campus that would have to be addressed if it were eliminated including:

Ms. Hampton said that the administrative leadership team had considered the idea of a 5 period block which would solve some of the proposed problems with flex, but would also provide for some of the same student and campus needs. The cluster/department leaders were not in favor of such a change at this point. However, Ms. Hampton explained that we did not have enough information to make an informed decision at this time. Ms. Luterman asked if it would be possible to visit some of the schools that had this schedule. Ms. Hampton said she would reach out to the principals of those schools. Some benefits of a 5 period day might include scheduled intervention classes such as dyslexia support, content intervention, and enrichment classes

including clubs that are currently offered during flex. It also has the potential to lower class sizes and provide more sections so that student groups could be more spread out. Challenges would be the Friday schedule. Some teachers were concerned about additional preps.

Principal Report

Budget Update: Ms. Hampton reported that she shared with department and cluster leaders that she planned to be able to create 3 full clusters for 7th and 8th grade for the 2016-2017 school year and that she would be able to do this with the addition of two new positions. However, recent news of possible budget cuts have put plans on hold until the vote and the February 11, 2016 board meeting.

Staffing Update: Ms. Hale, 8th grade history teacher, took a position in the corporate world and resigned effective, January 29, 2016. This creates an immediate vacancy in the history department. Ms. Rogers, speech teacher, resigned due to health reasons. There is a candidate for this position, however, we are awaiting some certification requirements.

Safety and Security

Crossing Guards: We do now have two crossing guards. One is stationed in the front and another is at Yale and 20th. This is paid for through the campus budget.

Student Drop off and Pick Up: Fewer parents are dropping off in the front. Ms. Valentine expressed that there were now more parents dropping off by faculty parking and they were causing back-ups on to 20th street. Due to the nature of where the building sits, it will be very difficult to every find a complete remedy to this problem.

Campus Security: The district is currently working to install the camera system and door locks that require people to buzz in or use a magnetic card. This process is close to complete. Additionally, the back gate by the basketball court will be extended and there will be a swing gate added to the end. This gate will remain locked during the day at all time. The walk through gate will also be locked using the new system that requires a card to get it as well as the back entrance to the cafeteria. As soon as this work is complete, the campus will be able to be secured at all times.

Community and Calendar

Ms. Alderete spoke about the Superbowl of Caring campaign. The NJHS Induction had to be rescheduled. Thursday the 28th is Coffee with the Principal. The topic will be programs that can assist all students in making progress such as Think Through Math, Vocabulary.com, and Avid. Mr. Cummings will be presenting on Vocabulary.com and Avid. Finally Ms. Hampton explained that should would be sending out an invitation for all faculty and staff to participate in creating a

Vision statement for Hamilton Middle School and once that process was completed, work would begin to create a campus Mission Statement.