

McNamara Elementary
Shared Decision-Making Committee Minutes
January 21, 2022
5:00 – 6:15 PM

Members Present:

Toufic Elachkar
Carol Applebaum
Melanie Brooks
Sanfora Foote
Charity Maina
David Sadof
Lindsey Turner
Traci Warren

Agenda Items:

I. Covid Testing and Vaccinations

The weekly Covid testing has occurred 4 times on our campus. The testing is going well. The first time 120 students, faculty, and staff tested. We now have between 140-150 testing. The positive cases started at 8% and has decreased to under 2%. We are waiting on the results from the fourth testing. We provide mask to our students who arrive without masks or cloth masks. We hosted 2 vaccinations, 119 for the first one and 156 for the second one. McNamara had a better turn out than most schools. Now we have been offered to host mental health classes.

We will continue with onsite testing for students, faculty, and staff who register, and with vaccinations for the community.

II. Capping Classes

McNamara's current enrollment is 981. Many schools are in RIF-Reduction in Force. They do not have enough students enrolled, so employees maybe let go. We are blessed that we are intact. However, we are getting full in many classes. We are happy to accept students, but we don't have the space. We understand that there is no capping in fifth grade, but in the lower grades 25 is too many. Unfortunately, all schools in the area are in the same position. We are kind to parents and understanding of different situations. Some have more than one child, have to work, etc. **We take every enrollment case by case.**

We will try to cap classes.

III. HB 4545

We are over 60% of tutorial completion. We have enough teachers and clerks to successfully complete tutorials. We should be able to finish by the end of February. Teachers are seeing progress of 3% increase. Tutorials will continue for 3rd-5th grade to prepare for STAAR.

We will continue tutorials as needed.

IV. Myon-Reading Mastery-Corrective Reading-Math & Science

Myon is an online library and software to help students. The librarian is making a flyer to send home with login instructions. The district adopted Really Great Reading which is similar to Reading Mastery. They are both phonetic based programs. We spent \$65,000 from our budget to purchase Reading Mastery. If we had known about Really Great Reading, we would have used that money to purchase devices. Teachers will be attending the Really Great Reading and Lead4Ward trainings on February 21, the Professional Development Day.

We will continue with all the above mentioned programs.

V. STAAR Review

We are tracking data for STARR. One teacher went from 50% to 53% to 57%, increasing 3-4% each time. The tracking is only happening with the class average. We will go down to the TEKS and measure the weekly objectives. If the students do well on one TEKS, we can move on. If not, we have to go down in order to know what TEKS to focus on. On the February 21 Professional Development Day, teachers will be learning how to generate reports for each objective.

We will continue to track data and bring it down to the TEKS.

VI. Houston Baptist University Partnership

We are excited to begin a partnership with HBU. We will be working directly with students in HBU's Educational Preparation Program. The students will be observing and interacting with master teachers and students for a total of 30 hours. The observations and tutoring will begin the middle of February.

We will partner with HBU for a total of six weeks to assist with closing the gaps.

VII. ESL Classes for Parents

The Houston City Libraries offer English classes for parents one day a week. We are asking for an additional day. There would be one in the morning and one in the afternoon. We are asking for computer classes.

We will continue with English classes for Parents and seek to add computer classes.

VIII. Devices

We have enough devices in the upper grades. The devices are trickling in the lower grades. There is some money in the budget from the Federal Program (ESSA), but it is not for devices. The Wrap Around department spent close to \$70,000 on jackets. Jackets can be provided from free programs. We should be able to use that funding for much needed devices. We get new students daily and students who must quarantine may need devices.

We will continue to request devices that we need.

IX. SEL

We must be kind to our students. We have no idea what some students are going through at home. We should always talk to them and have open communication. Distance is between us due to Covid, so we have to try to brighten their day.

We will inject music into the day on the 100th Day of School and allow students to dance for 100 seconds.

We will start having the students recite the Pledges and the Learner's Creed.