Clifton Middle School

Shared Decision Making Committee

September 3, 2019

Minutes

I. Updates
   a. After school program
      i. Be A Champion will start on Sept 9th. Enrollment low, so they will come tomorrow 9/4 to help with registration before and after school. Hopefully they’ll get at least 50 in order to survive. They want to hire Clifton folks.
   b. Library
      i. It’s ready! Might need a little more decoration—Mr. Jordan is on it. ELA Teachers will be trained to check out books. Need someone(s) to staff it in the morning to have it be open for students. Possibility of moving library back inside the building in room 005 in the future.
   c. Open House
      i. Sept 12, used to be by departments, maybe this time by grade level? Maybe electives in courtyard or band room. 8th Grade in multi, 7th Grade in gym, 6th Grade in the cafeteria.
   d. Discipline/Dress Code
      i. Earrings on guys allowed or not? Individual school makes the decision. We have decided as a committee that it’s allowed.
ii. A lot of students wearing jeans even though it was expressly prohibited.
iii. Students not in dress code should always have a detention pass. If they don’t, Ms. Saldana needs to be contacted. Maybe give students a nametag-like sticker with the info. Maybe admins can do a sweep during lunch.
iv. 6th Graders are having trouble getting royal blue shirts. Maybe we can allow navy blue and baby blue as well so that students can more easily be in dress code. Announce it in cougar pride newsletter and call-out today (9/3).

II. Budget
   a. Enrollment
      i. 613 students, short about 100 students, approx. $300,000 short. We’ll see what we can do to move things around so that we can keep from losing teaching staff.
      ii. We might get a small school subsidy to help a little, but if we don’t increase our enrollment by the October deadline, we might have to make some difficult decisions.
      iii. Last year’s attendance affects this year’s budget. We need to do better with our attendance so that we have more room to breathe next year.
      iv. We’re losing 6th Grade students to Yes Prep. Maybe we can build better relationships with our feeder elementaries.
   b. Transfers
      i. We can’t take any transfers from other middle schools.
   c. Staffing
      i. May be some shifts in staffing because of budget.

III. SIP Update
   a. Draft
      i. We got a tiny bit better. Went from a low D to a high D, but we need to do much better. Grew a lot in Social Studies, not enough in Meets and Masters overall.
   b. Goals
      i. We’re going to grow a certain percentage in Meets and Masters for each subject. Do we have to tools to show students how much their improving? This year, we’ll focus on training teachers to use these tools to help students track their progress continuously.
      ii. Possibly involve parents more in the testing process. Communicate with them about how, why, and when the tests are administered and give them the results with resources and tools on how they could help their child.
      iii. Two tools for parents to use: Gradespeed to track daily grades and OnTrack to show testing scores as compared to school and district.
      iv. Consider using students with mastery to tutor other students who need it.
      v. ELAR – Meets from 30%-35% and Masters from 13%-17%
      vi. Writing – Meets from 17%-25% and Masters from 4%-7%
      vii. Math – Meets from 29%-35% and Masters from 6%-12%
viii. Student Achievement – At least 80% of ELLS will meet the progress measure on Reading STAAR.

ix. Post-Secondary Readiness – Increase percentage of all students at “master’s” from 10%-15% on Reading, 4%-9% on Writing, 11%-17% on Social Studies.

x. Attendance – Increase our attendance rate by two percent from 93.5% to 95.5%. Robo-calls aren’t working. Only ADA counts. Meet with parents and inform them that if their children must be absent, they should only take them out of school after 10:15AM.

xi. Suspensions total (last year: 162; want to drop 10% = 142) There were more African Americans suspended than any other race. Re-evaluate suspensions; Mentorships will help with the decrease of suspensions.

xii. Fights: (27 total last year); Want to drop to at least (20). 25% decrease.

xiii. We are a “Platinum Campus.” Goal = Stay a Platinum Campus

xiv. Nutrition and Health and Fitness: No events last year, for this subject. Want to have at least (2) health related events this year. Examples: (Self-defense, Zumba class, Garden club, teaching how to cook healthy meals, health fairs, etc.).

xv. SPED: 80% will meet their “growth measures.” (Closing the Gap).

c. PD Calendar

i. Open Floor (On-Track: Teach the students how to track their own data using On-Track. Host a workshop for parents to teach them how to use On-Track, so that they can access and check their child’s data as well). Host a workshop during Open House, and later dates throughout the year.