

Liberty High School
SDMC Minutes

January 29, 2020

Location: Liberty HS Main Office

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rivas at 4:05 pm.

- I. Progress on implementation of QTEL framework on campus
Mr. Rivas gave a brief overview of the QTEL (Quality Teaching for English Learners) initiative then discussed the school's progress on its third year of implementation. He identified three key growth areas:

- a. Quality Interaction – teachers use different tasks to foster quality interactions.
- b. Rigor – Through QTEL training and coaching, teachers design lessons and units that amplifies—rather than simplifies—expectations, concepts, texts, and learning tasks.
- c. Focus on Language – Teachers promote language learning in meaningful contexts and disciplinary language use.

Mr. Rivas described the different components of the coaching cycle where a QTEL specialist, Nick Catechis, works closely with teachers and the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT). The ILT also conducts instructional rounds to evaluate progress and to determine next steps. Mr. Rivas said we are on track on our benchmarks. He added that with regards to teachers' implementation, some are on track while others need more consistency and support. Mr. Catechis is coming on February 10th – 12th for his final coaching cycle this school year. The focus of this cycle is to build the capacity of the leadership team as site-based QTEL coaches. Mr. Rivas gave an outline of what that looks like.

Plans for next year: Mr. Rivas explained that QTEL is a big investment. This year, the school used general funds, targeted funds, grants, and donations to pay for teachers' trainings and the coaching cycle. Based on the research the campus has done, this framework most appropriately address the needs of our students. He reiterated that the key part is supporting our teachers with the implementation. The committee agreed for a need to evaluate the success of the program at the end of the school year.

- II. Plans for the spring to prepare for high stakes exams
Mr. Rivas framed the discussion by restating our campus goals. He presented our DLA results. The data showed that although students are growing, there are still plenty of work to be done to achieve our goals. Please see the attached PowerPoint
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slides for a detailed description of the supports and interventions for ELA, Math, and post-secondary readiness.

- III. Plans to increase attendance percentages during final three months of classes
The school's goal is to improve attendance rate from 81.3% in 2018-2019 to 84% in 2019-202. The Campus IAT and Persistence Committees address attendance concerns on a weekly basis to support students with chronic attendance challenges. The overall attendance percentage on January 27 is 85,2% - this is 3% points higher than last school year. For the spring, Mr. Rivas said that the school will add more time for attendance intervention staff to make home visits and counsel students who struggle with attendance. Ms. McGowan added that parents and students are responding positively with the services provided through the Wrap-Around Department initiatives. She added that it really helps when SAFs (Student Assistance Form) are submitted to get students timely intervention or support. Ms. Hayes agreed and said she will remind ELA teachers to complete SAFs for students in need of support.
- IV. Status of relocation of the school for the new school year.
Mr. Rivas announced that the Board voted and approved Liberty High School's relocation to the new building. Liberty High School will be relocated to the building currently occupied by Middle College High School at HCC Gulfton. Mr. Rivas showed the blueprints of the building. The following are the concerns discussed by the members:
- a. Some of the recommendations are not on the list of items the district will fund
 - b. Middle College High School at HCC Gulfton is also requesting additional space for 2 classrooms.
- The committee agreed that more information regarding the move is needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5: