

BURRUS ELEMNTARY SDMC MEETING

April 20, 2023

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Present:

- Martha Starghill – parent
- Alexandria Ellis – Teacher
- Irene Garcia – Administrative Assistant
- Debra Madison – Teacher
- Erin Green – Magnet Coordinator
- Nicole Williams - Principal

Celebrations

- Essence Brown – Teacher of the Year
 - New to the state
 - Experienced teacher from Florida
 - Embraces curriculum

Instruction

- 3rd -5th grade has shifted to STAAR focused class sessions
 - 3rd -5th RLA Assessment: Tuesday, April 25, 2023
 - 5th Grade Science Assessment: Tuesday, May 2, 2023
 - 3rd – 5th Math Assessment – Tuesday, May 9, 2023
 - Students are engaged in collaborative learning
 - Students practice STAAR 2.0 type questions
 - This year we have given students opportunities to practice STAAR
 - Teachers are embedding online tools to practice within their instructional block
 - Teachers have taught the entire curriculum and have developed an action plan based on Fall and Spring interim data
 - Targeting deficit skills during small group instruction

Instructional Resources Currently Being Used

- Teachers are using STAAR released questions and passages to prepare students with the types of thinking expected on STAAR
- Teachers are also using the TARP system
 - The test includes multiple choice, open ended questions, and more than one answer

Upcoming Testing

- Another round of Texas KEA
- EOY Circle Assessment
- Renaissance 360 EOY
- HFW EOY (1st and 2nd)
- Benchmark Running Records

How can parents help?

- Give kids opportunity to get on Zearn (online platform for Math)
 - Kinder – 5th Grade
 - Students can log on anywhere with any device
 - Provides students a lesson first then different types of questions
 - Research based that has proven to help with STAAR
- Digital platforms for Reading: MYON and Imagine Language and Literacy
 - Students can log in online
 - Builds fluency and comprehension skills
 - Students can get additional practice at home

Attendance

- Attendance has increased, but not yet at goal.
 - Last year: 89.2%
 - Two weeks ago 92.3%
 - Attendance goal: 95%-96%
- What are we doing about it?
 - Incentivizing student attendance
 - Party with the principal every 6 weeks
 - SEL specialist, Ms. Jones, celebrates classes with the highest attendance rate. These students have the opportunity to go to the game room.
 - We reach out to parents of students who are not here on a consistent basis.
 - They receive letters about the amount of days their students have missed.
 - We have attendance meetings with those parents and let them know what are the dangers of students being consistently late or absent.
 - District addresses by stating if students aren't in school for a certain number of days, students don't get credit for course and have to go to summer school.
 - We recognize this is not a student problem, it is a parent problem.
 - We recognize we are not the only school struggling to recover from the effects of the pandemic. Parents were not consistent with bringing their kids to school after pandemic was over.

Opened up floor for ideas to boost attendance:

- **Ms. Ellis:** "Since it is a parent problem, do the parents know the consequences of their students not attending school? Is there something we can put in place that targets the parents?"
- **Principal Williams:** "There are so many different items to cross off of our list before we can refer the parent to an attendance specialist (truancy officer).
 - Have an attendance meeting

- Send out attendance/truancy letters 3-4 different times (Cannot be back-to-back. Has to be over the course of the school year.)”

Ms. Ellis: “How long is that process?”

Principal Williams: “It’s pretty lengthy. Ms. Jones actually attended the meeting for the process. There’s a whole list of steps we have to go through before we can actually submit them to an attendance specialist. Parents are not showing concern, however. We explain that if your kid only misses 10 minutes of school day, this is how it will affect his entire school career. If he only misses 30 minutes...If he only misses one day a week, etc. The chart we show them tells them that the time really adds up from PK – 12th. It’s a district problem. Our hands are tied as a campus because we have to follow protocols and procedures. Did you have any ideas?”

Ms. Ellis: “It’s not really the kids. It’s the parent’s decision, so can we incentivize the parents?”

Principal Williams: “What would that look like? Like putting their names in a raffle if their kids got perfect attendance?”

Ms. Ellis: “Maybe something like a gas card?”

Mrs. Starghill: “Or a food card, too.”

Ms. Garcia: “I can see if any restaurants would donate to us.”

Mrs. Starghill: “Have you all ever looked at the days that students are consistently absent? Certain students may be absent on certain days of the week. Have we looked at the pattern?”

Principal Williams: “No.”

Mrs. Starghill: “Maybe if we looked at the pattern of the students who are missing those days, maybe we can make it an attendance free dress day so the students can come.”

Principal Williams: “Great idea.”

Ms. Madison: “Can the teachers know the guidelines? I reach out to my parents of the students who are constantly missing and then I refer them to Ms. Campbell and Ms. Jones. But, I don’t know what the follow-up is. I have consistent absences from the same student. I can reinforce, but Kinders won’t get retained or have to go to summer school. I don’t think the parents know about the party until after it has already taken place.”

Principal Williams: “I think we can make it a combination of incentivizing the parent and the student.”

Ms. Madison: “I show parents on Dojo what Ms. Jones puts on the board in the hallway. I tell them I need them here.”

Principal Williams: “Any other ideas?”

Other questions, comments, concerns:

No one expressed any other questions, comments, concerns

○ **Upcoming events**

○ May

- Field day May 19th
- Awards ceremonies May 22nd with PK and K
 - There were talks about having one ceremony in the morning and one in the afternoon. They will not be combined.
- Coupling Magnet Showcase with 5th grade ceremony
 - Magnet Showcase on May 30th
 - 5th grade Fun Day May 26th
- PK – K award ceremony May 22nd
- 1st and 2nd award ceremony – May 23rd
- 3rd Grade – May 24th
- 4th Grade – May 25th
- 5th Grade – May 30th
- Tickets will not be used this year for ceremonies.
 - **Ms. Garcia:** “Parents were asking to take pictures with the their students.”
 - **Dr. Green:** “We can have a designated room for parents to take pictures. Maybe multipurpose room?”
 - **Principal Williams:** “It may be hard to manage the after effects.”
 - **Ms. Madison:** “PreK stands on the stage when we are through with the entire class”
 - **Principal Williams:** “Parents want to take pictures after the ceremony”
 - **Dr. Green:** “Serving lunch in classroom?”
 - **Principal Williams:** “Which teachers are willing to give up their lunch time?”
 - **Mrs. Starghill:** “Not me.”
 - **Ms. Madison:** “I will.”
 - Dr. Green retracts statement.
 - Ceremonies are 8:30am – 10:00am
 - **Ms. Starghill:** “Could we push back lunch on those days.”
 - **Dr. Green:** “It’ll interfere with magnet and their planning. What if we set up an outside area...Like the steps outside of the multipurpose room.”

- **Principal Williams:** “That’s a good idea. We would still have to have someone stationed there to make sure parents are going outside the gate after pictures. I think that’s manageable ”
- **Ms. Madison:** “I agree.”
- No one disagreed with picture area idea.
- We should have one more meeting left. Ms. Garcia will check on next meeting date.
- Field Day everything is supposed to be free for kids. Fall Festival is event where grade levels can fundraise.
- Dates for Summer School
 - No grade placement committee meetings this year.
 - Summer School Starts June 2nd - 5th for staff and ends July 31st
- Pie the Principal for MEETS or MASTERS students?
 - **Ms. Garcia:** Can they pie administrators?
 - SDMC members agreed.
 - Flyer will be sent home on Monday.

Motion to adjourn: 4:15pm

Ms. Starghill seconded the motion.